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CLIKQUE

LIKQUE MAGAZINE • APRIL 2005 • V6 #3

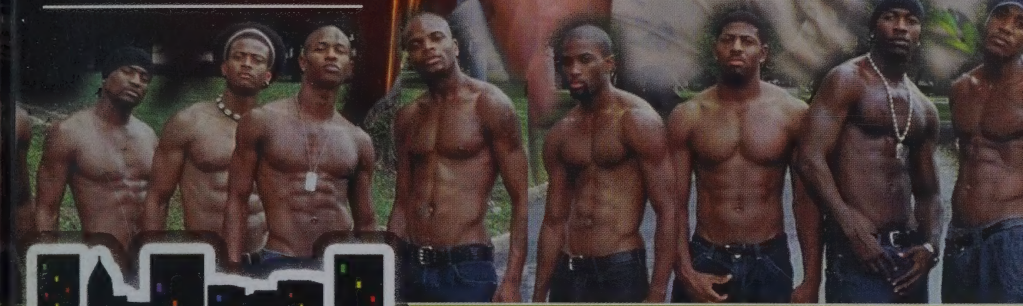
ANNUAL

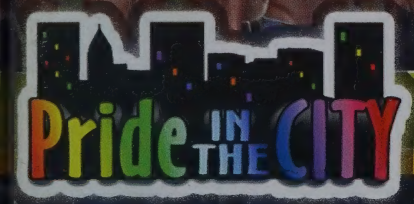
Black Prides & Circuits ISSUE

2005

Your Ultimate Guide To Brooklyn, NY & Dozens Of Other Pride Cities

Also Inside:
International Federation Of Black Prides





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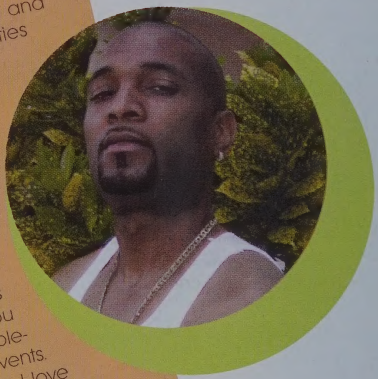
editorial

PRIDE

YEAR 2K5

We are really excited about this issue of Clikque and hope that you'll enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it all together for you. We do our best and try our hardest to keep you informed about the various events and activities across the nation. Being the only rag (Black Gay Magazine) left on the block, we consider this task a welcome responsibility.

In this issue, you'll be introduced to a national body, The International Federation Of Black Prides; an organization that we hope will make an impeccable difference in the enhancement of Black Gay Pride events nationwide. A unified organization working to enhance the lives and social consciousness of our communities could not have come at a better time.



Over the past few years, "pride" events around the nations are being drastically transformed into mega meeting grounds for parties and sex, with little to no focus on the educational, social, and political aspects of what prides were initially intended to represent. For those cities that recognized their events and gatherings as a pride event, I humbly stress that you go back to the days of old and implement all of the elements of pride events. There is nothing wrong with parties; I love a good party, however covering all bases makes your event well rounded. This in itself should appease all that wish to partake in the festivities.

I encourage you to support not only the major events in the larger cities, but also the smaller pride events right in your backyard. Pride organizers put a lot of energy and hard work into putting on successful events and your participation and support can go a long way in making the events bigger and better.

Enjoy the national pride and circuit events of 2005.

Dayl Powell

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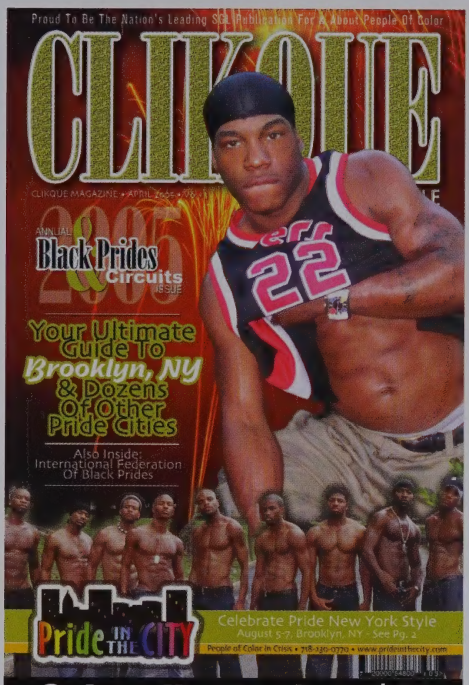
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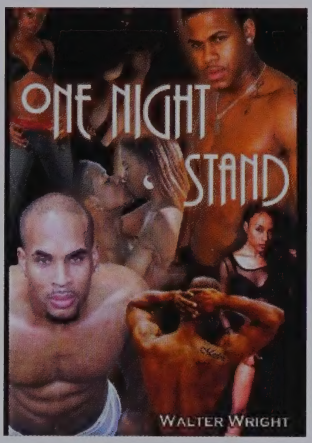
Walter Wright
is having a one night stand

Book Shelf

a review

In his addictive new book, Walter Wright, gives a feverent look into the African American gay community of Washington DC. The book takes place in one day, while exploring the lives of the different characters, who prepare to attend the party of the year!



The Who's Who of the African-American gay community will all be there, with one question on their minds: Who is going home with whom? While some will come to mend their broken hearts and some will come to get their groove back, all have one thing in common: A One Night Stand!

This book explores relationships with friends, lovers and siblings. **"One Night Stand"** is a definite page turner and a must read. While leaving you wanting more, Wright promises the next book will include the same characters you love and some new players.

About The Author

Walter Wright, a native of Lumberton, N.C., began writing to amuse the readers and educate people on the gay lifestyle. Already a cartoonist, Wright felt the need to tell a story with words, as an alternative to pictures.

Wright, a former D.C. resident, experienced the dual nature of the black gay community; kindness and friendliness reside on one side, while avarice and duplicity mire the other. Wright began to chronicle these experiences and produced **"One Night Stand"** The infusion of his creativity and wicked sense of humor gave birth to the books title. After all, the pleasured event of a **"One Night Stand"** is a parallel act for all readers.

"One Night Stand" is available at a Bookstore near you.

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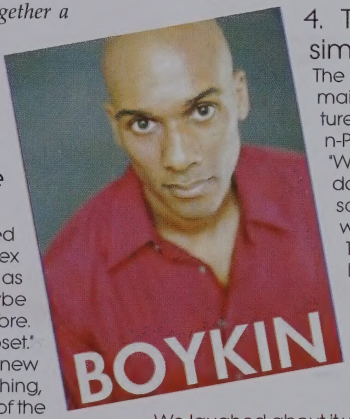
10 Things You Should Know About the DL

by Keith Boykin

It's coming again. Get ready for a new round of news stories about the down low. It started last year with a wave of media hype and sensationalism designed to scare black women about men on the DL. But now it's important to separate fact from fiction in this delicate conversation.

Almost everything we've been told about the down low in recent years is wrong. That's why I've put together a quick list of ten things everyone should know about the down low.



1. The down low is just a black version of "the closet."

The down low is popularly used to refer to men who have sex with men but do not identify as gay or homosexual. Maybe you've heard that concept before. Long ago, we called it "the closet." The term "down low" is just a new way of describing a very old thing, but it's the hot new buzz word of the moment.

2. The down low is not new.

The phrase itself may be new, but the practice is as old as history. Men have been secretly sleeping with men since the beginning of time. And married men have been doing the same thing. The only thing new is what we call it.

3. The down low is not just a black thing.

When Jim McGreevey, the governor of New Jersey, announced last year that he had cheated on his wife with another man, no one bothered to make the obvious point -- Governor McGreevey had been on the down low. When white men do it, we call it what it is and move on. When black men do the same thing, we want to pathologize it. Therein lies a double standard.

4. The down low is not simply a gay thing.

The term "down low" entered the mainstream of black popular culture in the early 1990s. In 1993, Salt-n-Pepa recorded a song called "Whatta Man" that mentioned the down low. In 1994, TLC recorded a song called "Creep" about a woman on the down low. In 1995, Brian McKnight recorded his song, "On the Down Low," about a woman named Maxine on the DL. Then in 1996 and 1998, R. Kelly recorded not one, but two songs about the down low.

We laughed about it when it was a heterosexual thing, but suddenly we became alarmed when we "discovered" that gay and bisexual men were on the down low too. There's another double standard. In reality, the down low is simply about cheating, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.

5. The down low is not the cause of the black AIDS epidemic.

In 2003 (the last year in which we have full CDC data available) there were more than 7,000 black female AIDS cases reported in the United States. Out of that number, only 118 reported "sex with a bisexual male" as the method of exposure. That's just 1.6 percent of all black female AIDS cases. Believe it or not, there are other ways to get infected besides having sex with a man on the down low. Many women are also becoming infected through injection

BOYKIN CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

What's "The T"?

ARCA

The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta Conducts Study of Tenofovir with Focus on HIV Negative African-American Men Who Have Sex with Men.

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is conducting a clinical drug trial called "The T" to test the safety of administering tenofovir to men ages 18 to 60 in the Atlanta area. One hundred African-American, HIV negative, men who have sex with men will participate in the study and will be followed for two years. One hundred men from the larger community also will be recruited. Tenofovir is an approved medicine for people living with HIV/AIDS.

There is a real need for participants in HIV/AIDS clinical research to reflect the demographics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the Atlanta area, this means that African-Americans must participate to be sure that tenofovir is as safe in African-Americans as it is for others. Often African-Americans are under-represented in clinical trials and therefore less is known about how medications specifically affect Blacks. This is the reason ARCA is committed to enroll half of the Atlanta participants from the African-American communities.

ARCA and the San Francisco Department of Public Health are the only research sites in the U.S. for this study. Each site will enroll 200 men. With an effective vaccine years at least a decade away, there is evidence and hope that tenofovir, which is used to treat HIV, may play an important role in reducing HIV infection worldwide.

This study will help answer questions regarding the behavioral and medical safety of tenofovir's use. We will reinforce proven prevention strategies and will work to safeguard the well being of all study participants. Extensive counseling will be provided at each visit to assist the participants in reducing HIV risk behaviors. Free testing for HIV will be provided to all study participants at any time throughout their participation in the study.

Since 1989, ARCA has participated in studies resulting in the licensing of 21 of the 24 drugs currently approved for the treatment of HIV.

Contact: Lynwood Miller, RN, Duncan E. Teague
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BOYKIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

drug use, sex with an injection drug user, and sex with a heterosexual (not down low) man.

Focusing on the down low misleads women to think that the down low is a health threat instead of HIV. That's a serious mistake. A man on the down low who is HIV negative cannot pass the virus to you, but a straight man who is not on the down low could easily give you HIV if he is infected with the virus. The down low does not cause AIDS. HIV causes AIDS.

6. The down low discussion is a distraction from the real issues.

All the time we've spent sensationalizing the down low in the past few years is time we could have spent talking about solutions to the AIDS epidemic in our communities.

On an individual level, we need to encourage men and women to exercise personal responsibility. On an institutional level, we need to mobilize our churches, fraternities, sororities and civic organizations so they can provide reliable safe sex information, HIV testing, and nonjudgmental counseling. And on a public policy level, we need to talk about free testing facilities, needle exchange programs, condoms in prison, targeted AIDS prevention funding, resources for low-income people living with AIDS, and safe sex education in public schools. That's the dialogue we should be having.

7. There are no "signs" to tell if a man is on the down low.

There are going to be a lot of people out there trying to tell you how to find out if your man is on the DL. Don't waste your time. The whole point of the down low is that these are people who do not want to be detected. The moment you come up with a "guidebook" to give you some warning signs is the moment when men on the down low will devise new strategies to elude you.

8. Becoming a "down low detective" is not the answer.

Log onto various Internet web sites about the down low, and you'll find lots of information about how to spy on your partner. Sure, you could hire a private investigator to follow him around when he goes to work, but what does that say about your relationship? If you do suspect something is fishy, you may be in for a shocking surprise. Your man may be cheating on you -- with another woman!

A better solution is to confront the homophobia in our community that contributes to the down low. If we want to stop the down low, then we need to create a climate where men (and women) don't feel the need to be on the down low in the first place. Then we won't have as many men who feel forced into fake relationships to keep the parents, friends and nosey neighbors out of their lives.

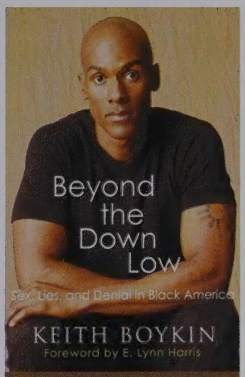
9. Demonizing men on the down low will not make them straight.

One popular response to the down low is to demonize all down low men as villains. That may make us feel a little better for a moment, but it won't change the reality of who they are. In fact, demonizing men on the down low is more likely to push these men further into denial about their sexuality. People often ask, "Why don't these men simply come out and say they're gay?" That's a good question, but as long as we keep demonizing homosexuality, don't expect any mass confessions to happen anytime soon.

10. Stereotyping women as victims will not keep them safe.

Much of the discussion about the down low recently has portrayed women as "victims" of black men. Framing the issue this way disempowers women from the ability to protect themselves, reinforces negative stereotypes about black men and encourages an unhealthy battle of the sexes in the black community.

The media machine behind the down low business (and it is a business) has tried to exploit women's fears about the DL in order to make a quick buck. But fear is not the answer. Education is. Knowledge is power, and all women and men need to know the truth.



Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.

A popular lecturer, Keith has traveled to 16 countries and 48 of the 50 United States. His new book, Beyond the Down Low, was released in February 2005 and immediately shot to the New York Times bestsellers list. Currently, he writes daily commentary on his website, keithboykin.com, which averages more than 70,000 hits per day, making it the leading website of its kind. Keith was born in St. Louis, Missouri and lives in New York City.

ifbp
International Federation of Black Prides

Spring, 2005

Greetings Black Pride Organizers and Attendees:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend good wishes for successful 2005 Black Pride events in the United States, Canada and around the globe. The International Federation of Black Prides, Inc (IFBP) represents twenty one Black Prides events in Nashville, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Charlotte, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Toronto, Dallas, San Diego, Central Florida (Tampa Bay), and South Africa.

The IFBP is a collation of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, health education and awareness, individual and collective work, responsibility and self determination.

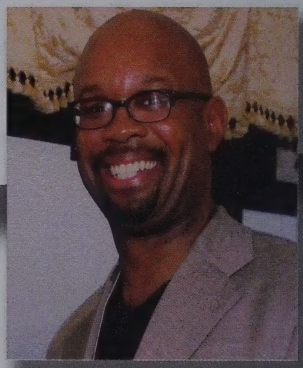
We are a strong community despite our struggles against racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and all those forces that attempt to demean and belittle us as a people. One of the major cornerstones of the Black Pride movement is that these events allow us to acknowledge and celebrate our duality of being both African American/Black and LGBT - equally and without shame. We as African American/Black members of the LGBT community must continue to learn how to define ourselves in a way that embrace all parts of our lives which include our families, our places of worships, our culture, our race and our personal choices.

As the IFBP and the African American/Black community continues to grow, I know that
we will continue to find common grounds in which to be supportive of one another in our struggle to achieve equality.

Peace,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,
President & CEO



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The IFBP is a coalition of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, health and wellness, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, and individual and collective work, responsibility, and self-determination.

HISTORY

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC. in 1999. The coalition saw a need to organize the twenty plus Black Prides in the United States and abroad for the purpose of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

In November 2000, the original seven cities, in addition to Los Angeles and Jacksonville, formalized IFBP, adopted bylaws, and elected officers. In April 2001, IFBP extended invitations to the remaining Black Prides and prepared for the first annual IFBP Meeting under the new bylaws. As a result of the meeting, the organization produced the 2001 Black Prides in the United States listing, the first official brochure listing of its kind.

In January 2004, IFBP successfully conducted the Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance Conference (SPTA) for members and prospective members. Representatives of eighteen Black Pride cities attended the conference in order to obtain information on improving Pride events. A series of workshops were conducted, topics including event planning, vending package development, sponsorship, media relationships, working with promoters, and other issues centered on producing a successful Black Pride event. In addition, IFBP assisted conference attendees with writing bylaws, completing IRS 501 (c) (3) applications, setting up fiscal systems, and developing Pride organizations. In January 2005, IFBP conducted yet another successful SPTA Conference in Atlanta, GA, one of its purposes to unveil the official IFBP website.

The IFBP adopted a number of organizational changes at our January 2005 meeting. The most important are that the current and only president, Earl Fowlkes will become the President and CEO of the IFBP and will no longer be on the Board of Directors. All four regional vice presidents: East region - Dorena Kearney-Philadelphia Black Gay Pride; Midwest region - Johnny Jenkins - Detroit Hotter Than July; South region - Gervon James - Jacksonville Black Pride; and West region - Wendell Carmichael - LA At The Beach will become staff and a new board will be constituted during the annual meeting in Washington, DC during the 2005 Memorial Day weekend. The 2006 IFBP Annual Meeting will be in Memphis, TN during the MLKJr. weekend.

2005 Goals for the IFBP

Have website up and running within the next 90 days

Implement IFBP 2005 agenda

Obtain office space in Washington, DC (HQ)

Publish a national IFBP Guide

Restructure organization- separate staff and board responsibilities

Develop stronger regional networks that will foster a stronger mentor program

Obtain grants & foundation support to develop stronger Black Pride infrastructure

Develop stronger communications between IFBP and members

Continue to partner with other LGBT and non LGBT national organizations (e.g., NAACP, NBJC, HRC, etc.)

Develop dialogue with African American/Black organizations

More skills building opportunities

Continue to work with community folks interested in starting Black Prides in Columbus, Austin, Louisville, Savannah & other cities

Develop African American/Black Archive Project

2005 Officers

President, **Earl Fowlkes** - Washington DC
East Regional Vice President, **Dorena Kearney** - Philadelphia
Midwest Region Vice President, **Johnny Jenkins** - Detroit
South Region Vice President, **Gervon James** - Jacksonville
West Region Vice President, **Wendell Carmichael** - Los Angeles
Treasurer, **James Saunders** - New York
Secretary, **Anthony Hardaway** - Memphis

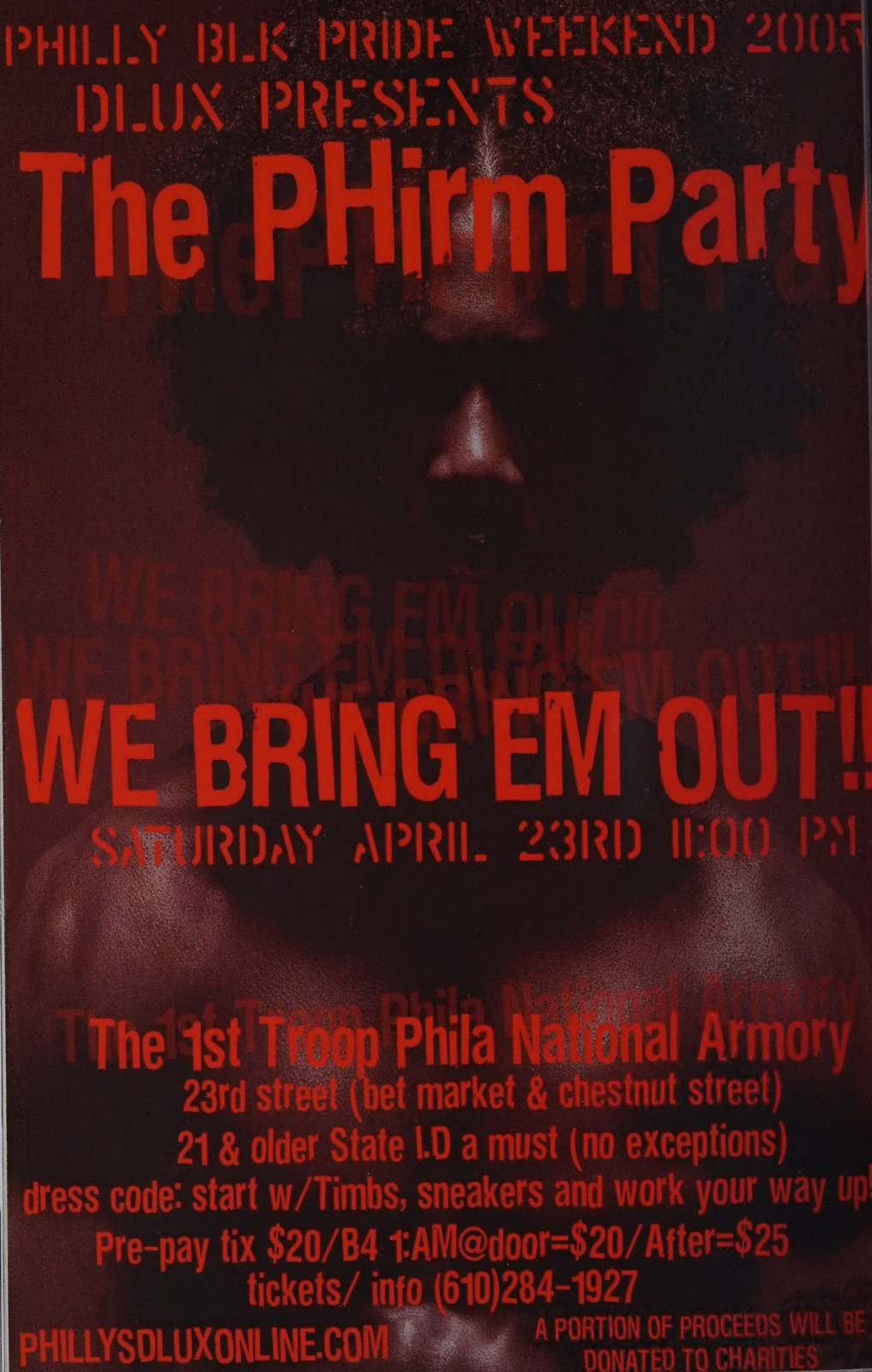
Windy City Black Pride, Chicago, IL

International Federation Of Black Prides

ifbp

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- An increased number of Black Prides committees involved in local community issues (e.g., ban on gay marriage amendments, etc.)
- Successful Get Out the Vote Campaign
- Increased cross promotion among IFBP membership
- Continued representation on the National African American Tobacco Education Network
- Held 7th Annual meeting in Washington, DC
- Regional Vice Presidents taking a more active role in mentoring new prides and guiding potential member through the process
- More discussion with national organizations (e.g. HRC, NGLTF)
- Developing Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual
- Developing Personnel Policies and Procedures manual
- New logo
- Obtain 501 (c)(3) non profit status
- Members of the Executive Comm. attended 12 member Black Prides
- Produced our 5th Annual Black Pride calendar
- The majority of the IFBP members listed themselves as "Pride members of the IFBP"
- Conducted focus groups on the smoking habits of Black LGBT in five BP cities.
- Developed a comprehensive membership criteria and formal membership process
- Received funding for website
- Had successful regional meetings in Baltimore and Atlanta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class of 2005 - national pride leaders

Clikque Magazine would like to salute all of the officers, leaders, and board members of pride events all over the country. These individuals give all of themselves receiving little and in most instances no reward. They do it for the pure love and desire to uplift, enhance and positively showcase our black gay communities

Thanks to all of you for you efforts over the years and best wishes to you for a successful 2005.

DWAYNE JENKINS

Organization
Nashville Black Pride

Position
Founder / President

The Nashville Black Pride Planning Team that assembled all felt that it was time to celebrate the life & culture of African American SGL in our city. 8 years with Brothers United Network, Inc, and 3 years with the Nashville charter of the International Federation of Black Prides Organization.

LORENZO ROBINSON

RICC ROLLINS

Organization
Central Florida Black Pride

Position
Co-Founder / President

Location
Tampa, Florida

The prides of years prior to 2000 we covertly inclusive and never made issue with the fact that there was no real outreach to the SGL community of color. It was at that pride (2000) that the only six African-American attendees said, enough is enough- and the rest is history.

TONEY MORSE

Organization
Philly Dlux / Philadelphia Black Pride

Position
Founder

Location
Philadelphia, PA

Philly Dlux investment club is a Philadelphia based organization established May 30, 2000. This association is comprised of African American Gay Men seeking to develop economic tools of empowerment. Our mission is to create financial security and wealth through strategically investing while forming a society of brotherhood

We aim to produce members who understand the importance of brotherhood and financial stability. DLUX is a social network of progressive, supportive and creative individuals. Our vision is to positively affect the social and economic development of our members while providing nurturing mentorship's for Gay youth of African descent

Philly's DLUX investment club and the members thereof are dedicated to acquiring collective wealth, serving as philanthropists, sponsoring various projects and dedicating time to charitable causes.

JERMAIN LEE

DAMON BLACKMAN

Organization
North Carolina Black Gay Pride

Position
Co-Founders

Location
Tampa, Florida

Charlotte NC is the heart of the oppressive "Bible Belt" and is still an epicenter of racism, classism, intolerance and homophobia. Therefore, this historic Pride Celebration has many layers. It is about more than just entertainment. We are paving the way for further equality and visibility of same gender loving people of color in the southeast. Has our 2005 theme proclaims, "It's A New Day."

GARFIELD LEE

Organization
Dallas Black Gay Pride

Position
President

I strive to make Dallas Black Pride the Neuclus for all Groups, Clubs, organizations of color in the GLBT community.

GARY ENGLISH

Organization
POCC Pride In The City

Position
Executive Director

I chose to be involved in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and in the country are aware of their HIV status and that they have medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices will be heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

Washington DC Black Pride
ERIC RICHARDSON / President

Boston Unity Pride
LEE JAMES / President

Memphis TN Black Pride
ANTHONY HARDAWAY / President

Black Pride NYC
JAMES SAUNDERS / Founder

At The Beach LA
WENDELL CARMICHAEL / President

Windy City Black Pride
JOHN ROACH / Officer

Detroit Hotter Than July
HANK MILLBOURNE / President

Pittsburgh Unity Black Pride
DERYCK TINES / President

Jacksonville Florida Black Pride
CHRISTOPHER FOREMAN / President

Indiana Black Pride
ROBERT FERGUSON / President

Minnesota GLBT Soul Essence
JOSEPH WARD / President

Cleveland Black Gay & Proud Celebration
JON EVERETT / President

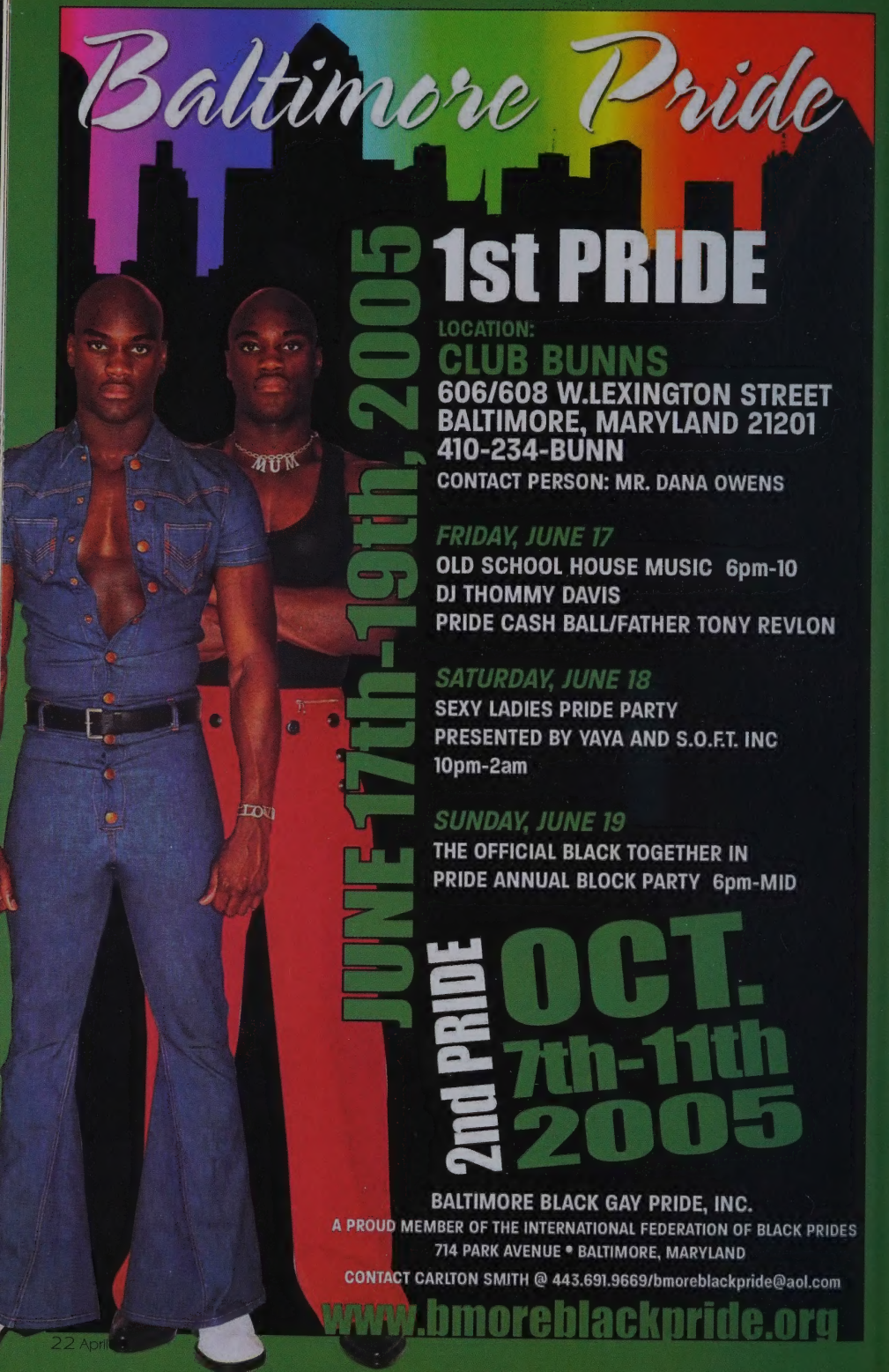
St. Louis Black Pride
ANTHONY GALLOWAY / President

Bay Area Black In The Life Celebration
JOE HAWKINS / President

Ebony Pride San Diego
KEN RILEY / Co-Chair

In The Life Atlanta
MICHAEL SLAUGHTER / President

Baltimore Black Gay Pride
CARTON SMITH / President


Baltimore Pride
1st PRIDE
LOCATION:
CLUB BUNNS
606/608 W.LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
410-234-BUNN
CONTACT PERSON: MR. DANA OWENS
FRIDAY, JUNE 17
OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSIC 6pm-10
DJ THOMMY DAVIS
PRIDE CASH BALL/FATHER TONY REVLON
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
SEXY LADIES PRIDE PARTY
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SUNDAY, JUNE 19
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JUNE 17th-19th, 2005
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how do we make our BLACK GAY PRIDES more than supersexed-up parties?

By Ricc Rollins, Tampa FL

Coming from what some might think of as the "faux South," the concept of Black Pride was totally foreign until we published our first book, Like Breathing and was told that you have to promote it at "Pride." My exposure to Pride at that point had been limited to the Eurocentric versions that I attended in the early 80's. Needless to say I was amazed at what I would soon discover.

Following the sage advise of my advisors, my business (and then life partner) sojourned to DC for Black Pride. The city bustled with beautiful brothers in every hue and height, I was amazed, to be honest, overwhelmed was more like it and we hadn't even got to the actual Pride event yet. That Saturday, we were invited to Lambda Rising for a signing. I ran into people that I knew from college and others that I had met on other legs of my tour and people from Tampa of all places. I was amazed to see people from Tampa because no one had ever told me about "PRIDE" - they would just mention Memorial Day or DC but never explained why they made this traditional trek every year. It wasn't until later that I would realize why.

Never had I been so proud as I was that Saturday to see brothers- my brothers, come to an event and pack out a place. Again, I was overwhelmed. Remember, I was from Tampa and had never witnessed anything like this. Our "pride" events rarely had Afrocentric attendance except for the few people who I knew from the club- which is where I saw black people that I never seemed to see anywhere else. That always amazed me- still does to this day.

I digress, the signing went well and we sold everything that we had with us and previewed the two books that would debut at Pride the next day. To this day we remain grateful for what happened in that bookstore that day. It was amazing to us, brothers everywhere excited about books and showing such support. I remember remarking to Lorenzo (Robertson) that if that I felt like I had died and gone to heaven and that this would never happen in Tampa- or so I thought.

The next morning we made our way to Howard University's Banneker Field and if I thought that Saturday was eye opening that Sunday would prove to be the "ah-ha" moment that put it all in to perspective. We arrived at the author's tent where we had assembled SGL authors from around the country for what we thought would be a huge success. Keith Boykin, Sharon Bridgforth, Michael Christopher, Dwayne Carter, G, Winton James, Lorenzo Robertson and myself prepared for what we thought would be a historical and yes, profitable day. It was historical to us anyway; for us it resembled what the Harlem Renaissance must have been like and having later watching Brother to Brother it was in many ways. People would come and chat and some would buy but most came to ogle at the buffed body of one of the authors; a hint that this mindset of the day

GOT PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

GOT PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

wasn't empowerment. Please know that I ain't hatin', that author sold a third of what was purchased that day. Between the seven of us only one hundred books were sold. To this day I am saddened by that. I guess as an author, I could say that was the foreshadowing of what was to come or as my grandmother would say, "it was the handwrittin' on the wall."

I think Ray Charles could have seen what would later become so clear to me once I rebounded from my disappointment of the day gain new perspective. Upon reflecting on the day, I noticed buffed body after buffed body and while it made for great eye candy and a testament to physical health, there was a tension in the air that went beyond the surface. It was a sexual tension as the brothers scoped each other out giving each other the eye as they nonchalantly made their way around the venue.

Later that evening over dinner I over heard some of the same brothas I had seen at Banneker quizzing locals about the "Blatino Party." Again, my naiveté took over and I thought that this an organization for black and Latin brothas. I would later learn that it was a sex party. That whole concept intrigued and saddened me at the same time. Make no mistake, I'm no prude and believe that if you're an adult, do what makes you happy as long as it's not harming you and you can live with you.

As time progressed I notice that what I had witnessed in my maiden voyage to DC became more the norm that the exception regardless of the efforts by Pride organizations all over the country. The empowerment workshops, the literary cafes, interfaith services or other non-party events never garner the crowd or attendance that the "parties" do.

Our contact information is published on numerous websites and publications because of our Pride involvement and without fail, people coming to the city will call and ask "where are the clubs, the bathhouses, the bookstores..." but never call and ask for the all-affirming church, the coffeehouse, the men's organization or a good restaurant.

We have been so conditioned to think that the "sexual" in homosexual defines who we are that we forget that it goes far beyond "sexual preference" and really is about "sexual Orientation." We've bought into the stereotypes of media and forgotten who we really are. It's all about the "sex" and the "boyz."

As a pride organizer it's very frustrating to plan events that will empower a generation both seasoned and neophyte and have it poorly attended or not attended at all. Prides around the country are faced with the dilemma when planning. While it's our intent to have a well-rounded event with empowerment and entertainment, it's a struggle to not succumb to the mindset "just plan the parties and forget the rest because ain't nobody coming to the workshops!"

Pride must be true to it's name and be a catalyst for the enriching of lives , the enlightening of minds and the uplifting of souls. If one person is touched or a life is enlightened because he see other strong, stable men walking his same path but making more empowering decisions and doing well as a result- the trail is then blazed.

Don't get me wrong, there's absolutely nothing wrong with having fun, but what is there to be proud of when all that is on your mind is the sex. The celebration of who you are and whose you are is diminished by who had you and who had who. Again, not trying to be a prude here, or come across as the moral anything. But I hear the voices of Bayard, Baldwin, Lorde and Ellis asking themselves "how did it come to this? Is this what we fought so hard for?"

What have we done with their legacy? Are we so caught up in moment that we're willing to toss away a life time?

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top twenty

TOP 20

THINGS NOT TO DO AT PRIDE THIS YEAR

20— Don't have more than four people sharing one hotel room

19— Don't forget to tip the bartenders and strippers even if they're visually challenging

18— Don't come to the club if your not looking to have a good time

17— Don't forget to bathe and use deodorant before leaving to go to the club

16— Don't take up all the space on the dance floor

15— Don't expect a guy to buy you a drink just because you're cute

14— Don't bother the DJ with request

13— Don't expect to be on the guest list

12— Don't fight in the club

11— Don't use other people's credit cards

10— Don't give it up on the first night of a 3 day weekend, he'll wait "if" you're worth it

9— Don't expect to find a new boyfriend

8— Don't wear make up or contacts cause he may not recognized you in the morning

7— Don't wear last year's pride fashions

6— Don't tell people your a true top if you're not

5— Don't bring your old or current boyfriend

4— Don't bring six months amount of clothes for a three day weekend

3— Don't wear clothes 2 times smaller than your actual size

2— Don't bring an over night bag to the club

1— Don't get upset when you realize that you're not the only cute person at pride

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SATURDAY JULY 2ND

LOFTWERKS PRESENTS: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ CLUB REUNION 811 W. LAKE ST.
9:30PM-3AM

SUNDAY JULY 3RD

OTDL PRESENTS: FREEDOM
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ ZENTRA 923 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ SHEFFIELD)
(773)215-OTDL OTDL CHICAGO @AOL.COM
11PM-4AM

MONDAY JULY 4TH

TUT & CLUBHOUSE PRESENT: PRIDE 2005
SHOW & DANCE PARTY
HOST: OTIS MACK & Mz. RUFF N STUFF
@ CIRCUS 901 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ FREMONT)
(312)398-8960
10:00PM-4AM

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www.thewindycitypride.org
CAGO PRIDE 2005
JUNE 30TH - JULY 4TH
JULY 4TH WEEKEND
WCP 2005
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2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

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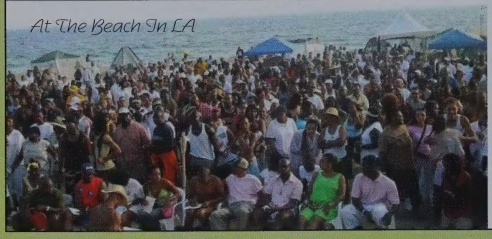

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

APRIL

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE

APRIL 21-24, 2005
www.phillyblackpride.org
610-284-1927
SEE PAGE 15 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

MAY

HOUSTON SPLASH*

MAY 4TH-9TH, 2005
www.houstonsplash.com

SIZZLE MIAMI*

MAY 26TH-30TH, 2005
www.sizzle2005.com
305-528-7495
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WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE

JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
773-562-6039
www.windycitypride.org
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AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

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CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE

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(813) 873-1888
Riccrollins@aol.com
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CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE

JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
WEB: www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
BlackOut Unlimited
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.blackoutunlimited.org

BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY

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78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
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JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

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ifbp International Federation of Black Prides

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

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www.inthelifeatl.com
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OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.

black gay PRIDE baltimore

OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
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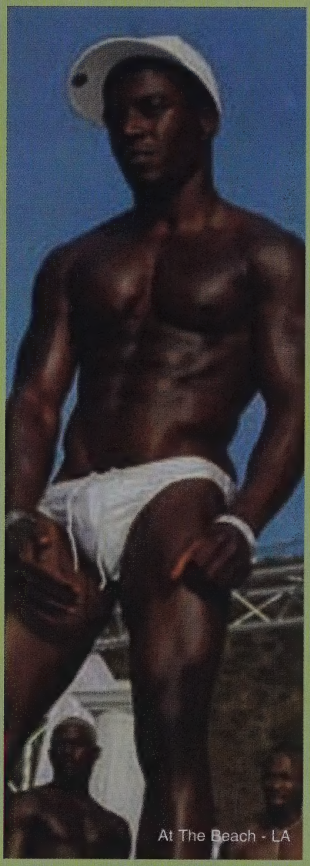
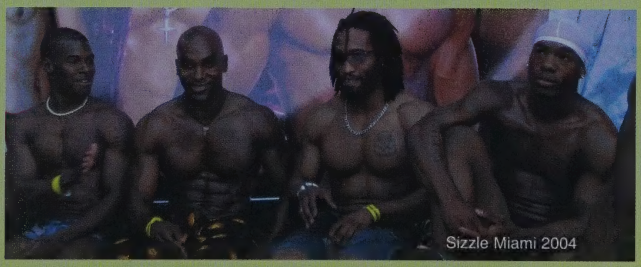
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005


At The Beach - LA


Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time

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SPIRITUAL ROMANCE:

AN ADAM AND STEVE LOVE STORY

The following is the first of a three part essay series dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God.

Rarely are the words erection and God used in the same sentence. Why is this? If God invented sex, sexuality, sexual desire, sexual orientation, erections, and orgasms then why is there such timidity in discussing such topics openly during a Sunday school discussion or even during a sermon?

Why is there such an uncomfortable mood when speaking frankly and unabashedly about the joys and challenges of sex within the spiritual context in which we live and breathe especially within the black gay/lesbian community? Sex isn‚t just for procreation and reproduction, but was also created as an intimate spiritual exchange between two people for their mutual enjoyment and understanding.

However, within the same-gender-loving community, there is still a staunch resistance to the idea of marrying our spirituality with our sexuality especially when it comes to our gay/lesbian dating and relationships.

Many still believe that „God won‚t bless this mess‰ so why pray about our romantic relationships and the sexual expressions that come from it. There is still fear and shame from gays/lesbians in coming to God in complete honesty and asking for his guidance and advice in ordaining and blessing their same-gender-loving relationships.

It is this mental resistance that we must finally shed as we pursue healthy, monogamous, same-gender-loving relationships within a growing spiritual relationship with God and with each other. Hence, we as black gay/lesbians must now learn to pursue a „Spiritual Romance‰ with one another and not just a sexual one.

So what is a Spiritual Romance?? It is the fullest integration of one‚s spiritualism and one‚s romanticism. It is the dynamic merging and crystallization of one‚s faith/belief system and one‚s emotional and erotic connection with the opposite or same gender.

Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of meeting, greeting, dating, and committing to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God. And for the same-gender-loving community there is no difference. Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of how Adam and Steve and Ruth and Naomi, meet, greet, date, and commit to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God.

There are three major steps we must take in order to enter into the realm of Spiritual Romance.

1. Focus FIRST on your relationship with God and the rest will follow

Let God define who you are, never allow anyone else to do it. Learn to submit to him, lean upon him, listen to him, and trust him for your every need and desire in life. Allow God to complete you and bestow upon you your purpose in life. Seek to discover and to live out your spiritual gifts and talents without shame or denial of who you are in the process.

Understand who you are in the entire universal plan. Meditate and pray often. Become a completed, whole, confident being before even thinking about engaging in a serious committed same-gender-loving relationship.

2. Pray asking God to direct and guide you to the same-gender-loving person that you are seeking.

Obviously this step is a very difficult one for many. As a result, too many people needlessly toil and suffer in their dating and relationships because they feel too guilty, ashamed, and unworthy to ask God for direction and romantic guidance concerning a person of the

same gender.

By clinging to their unworthiness state, many gay/lesbians truly miss out on an opportunity to be blessed by God. They forget the word says to step boldly to his throne and to also ask anything in Jesus, name. They forget the scripture that says to delight yourself in the Lord and he will bless you with the desires of your heart.

If you sincerely want a monogamous, loving, trusting, and spiritually grounded relationship with a person of the same gender, then you MUST pray to God, sharing with him exactly what your desires are.

You must pray before this person comes into your life, pray during the relationship both separately and together, and then continue to pray in the event the two of you should separate. Prayer should be a constant in all of our lives, and not reserved for special moments of need.

3. Opposites may attract but like personalities with a spiritually yoked person is a much wiser choice.

A relationship is a ying-yang, push-pull, complementary, thriving, and continued growth experience. As your mutual love for God grows, so does your relationship along with your ability to withstand the slings, arrows, darts, circumstances and events that will impact against your relationship and each other.

Being both spiritually yoked does not mean that you must believe and understand identically, but instead it means that the two of you hold very similar belief systems and approaches to life. When you have these things in common, growth occurs. When growth occurs, it will happen to both of you and not just to one of you. Further, the growth will occur in the same direction, binding the two of you together.

When people grow apart it is often because one has grown into a new dimension in their lives while the other one hasn,t. The change happens gradually over time and is often unnoticed. Gays/lesbians must take a special effort to do more spiritual screening and consideration before going forward into a relationship.

Internalized homophobia is a major hurdle to overcome. If one of you has overcome it spiritually and the other one still thinks homosexuality is a sin, then you must consider the strain and stress upon your relationship.

Finally, there are no guarantees that a spiritually yoked same-gender-loving couple will remain together. There are still many other factors that weigh heavily upon the success of your relationship. However, a spiritually yoked same-gender loving couple has a much better chance of staying together trough thick and thin over the course of time because of their like belief systems and approaches to life.

The next installment is titled „Spiritual Sex: Can you Make Love to Gospel Music?‰ Are you able to get your groove on to the melodic sounds of CeCe Winans, Smokey Norful and others? If not, why?

Herndon L. Davis is a Los Angeles based writer and author of *"Black, Gay & Christian"* and can be reached at http://blackgaychristian.com

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

MOL

Miracle of Love, Inc.
1800 Mercy Drive Ste. 300
Orlando, Fl. 32808

Hours of Operations
8:30am- 5:30pm M-F

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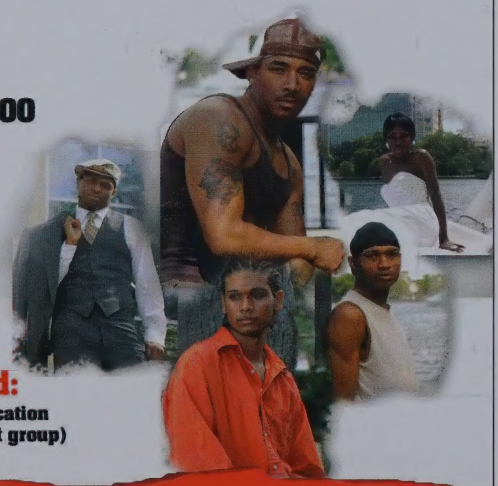
Young Minority Advocators (Peer support group)
Outreach



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ders, sexual orientations, national origin, physical and athletic abilities, health statuses, ages, religious and socio-economic backgrounds have come together from around the world in the spirit of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best. For 25 years, these values have helped to foster an international LGBT sports movement that builds bridges across borders, eradicates stereotypes, and truly changes the world. If you are a recreational or master athlete, an emerging or acclaimed artist, physically challenged, young or old, near or far, LGBT or heterosexual, you are invited to join us in Chicago for a week of friendship, open expression, and global community.

This will be a Gay Games for the ages. The sports and cultural components will be directed by experts in their fields, the tournaments and performances will be professionally organized, the competition and culture will be top flight, and the events will be held at world-class facilities sure to bring out your personal best. Most activities will be bundled into four sports villages to maximize convenience and to foster camaraderie and support among participants. The villages, easily accessible by public transportation, are built around some of Chicago's most stunning recreational, cultural, and historic centers.

From 15-22 July 2006, Chicago will play host to the world and welcome thousands of athletes, spectators and cultural participants into our homes, our hearts and our city for the seventh quadrennial Gay Games Sports and Cultural Festival. The Games will feature 12,000 participants, competition in 30 sports, world-class athletes and artists, band and choral performances, nightly medal ceremonies, a week-long arts festival, parties, and spectacular opening and closing ceremonies featuring entertainment, pageantry, and the parade of participants from more than 70 countries.

The Gay Games are open to anyone. There are no qualifying events, no minimum or maximum requirements, and no mandatory affiliations. The Games are built on the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best, and promote a supportive environment, free from bigotry, where participants achieve success by their own measure. More than a tournament or cultural program, the Gay Games is a gathering of the international sports and arts community that changes lives, attitudes, and the very nature of competition.

In 1982, Dr. Tom Waddell, a 1968 Olympic decathlete, founded the Games primarily to showcase LGBT sports, describing it as "an experiment in global unity; an experiment in education; a vehicle for change." Since that time nearly 50,000 individuals of different races, gen-

When you enter Soldier Field on Sunday, 15 July 2006, and bask in the emotion of our Opening Ceremony, you will begin to understand the passion that drives the Gay Games. Throughout the next 8 days, whether you take home a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Participation Medal, or simply come to support your friends and colleagues in their own dreams, you will have memories of a lifetime, and mark your place in the 25-year legacy of the Gay Games. Visit http://www.gaygameschicago.org/ for more information on the games.

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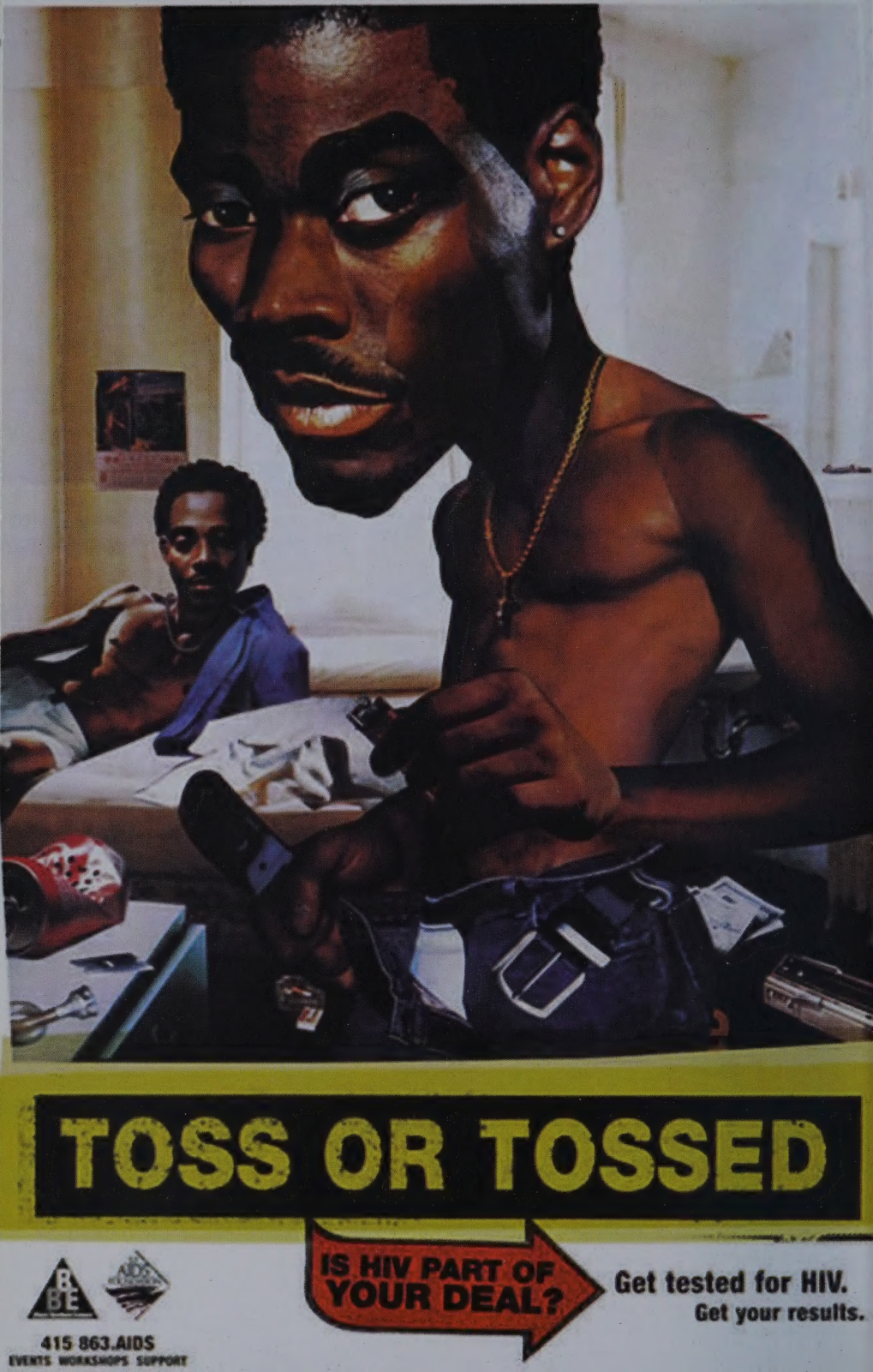
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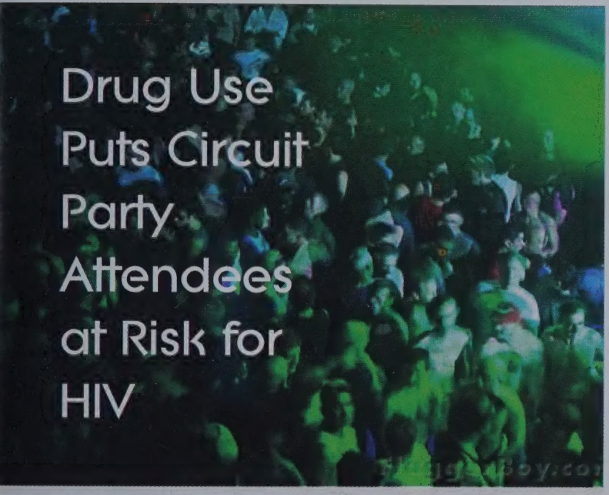
by jon gârbo

Drug Use Puts Circuit Party Attendees at Risk for HIV



Rampant drug use and risky sex are commonplace at circuit parties and pride events, putting party-goers at substantial risk for HIV infection, according to a study of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, CA who attended these events. The study was first published in the American Journal of Public Health.

HIV and STD transmission among party attendees is "a real public health concern."Researchers from the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention surveyed gay and bisexual men age 18 and older who attended at least one circuit party in the previous year. Some respondents were recruited outside of gay venues (such as nightclubs, gyms, a gay pride event, sex clubs and other businesses). Others responded to flyers that advertised the study, or were referred by participants already enrolled. Almost 60 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 97 percent identified as gay.

The study found that a high percent of the men used at least one psychodctive drug during the last circuit party they attended. Ecstasy was the most popular (75 percent had taken it), ketamine the second most popular (58 percent) and alcohol the third (56 percent). Around 7 percent of the men said they passed out, needed medical assistance or could not take care of themselves as a result of using drugs.

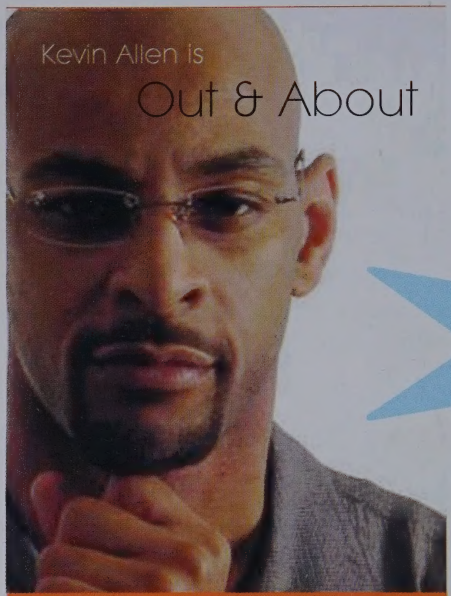
In addition, 29 percent of respondents reported having multiple sex partners (with whom they had oral or anal sex) during the event. Among these men, 24 percent reported unprotected anal sex with a partner whose HIV serostatus was different from theirs or unknown to them. Almost half of all respondents reported having a primary partner (defined as someone they lived with or seen a lot and to whom they felt a special emotional commitment), but among these men, 27 percent reported multiple sex partners (oral or anal) during the festivities. Overall, 17 percent of respondents said their most recent HIV test was positive and 83 percent said it was negative.

"As a whole, these findings suggest that a substantial drug culture permeates the circuit party environment, a drug culture that is distinct from broader communities of gay and bisexual men," the study authors wrote. In addition, drug use was found to increase sexual risk behavior, so much so that the study authors called the likelihood of HIV and STD transmission among party attendees "a real public health concern."

On an encouraging note, making condoms and safer sex and drug abuse information available to party-goers may help reduce their risk-taking behavior, according to the study. The researchers attended a circuit party where condoms and pamphlets were displayed. Over 60 percent of attendees noticed the condoms, and around one-third of these men helped themselves to some. In the case of the pamphlets, around one-third of the men took notice, of whom around 28 percent read the safer sex info and 53 percent read the drug abuse info.

"Condom visibility and accessibility are important factors in condom use," the study authors wrote. And in the case of drugs, "attendees need to be knowledgeable about multi-drug interactions and mixing psychoactive drugs with medical treatments [such as antiretrovirals]."

The researchers urged public health officials to reach out to circuit party attendees, and for organizers of these parties to implement risk-reduction strategies.



Kevin Allen is Out & About

Atlanta Magazine recent featured a story On the Down Low by Chandra R. Thomas. The article's main story centers around Kevin F. Allen a former down low African American male who's come to terms with his sexuality. Allen is the Vice President of Sales & Marketing of Senwot Nella Productions an independent film company located in Atlanta, Georgia, which he also co-founded.

Allen's production company is scheduled to release a documentary this month on the subject entitled *Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low*. The Screening tour is being launched in Atlanta, Georgia at the wonderful Woodruff Arts Center on Monday, February 28, 2005, at 7:00 PM.

Living On The Low is an in-depth documentary presenting real-life stories from men who have come clean from living that type of life and men who are still "living on the down low". Executive Producers Kevin F. Allen and Maurice Townes of Senwot Nella Productions and Ronda Noel of Noel Entertainment -- an independent film company based in Beverly Hills -- takes you deep into this guarded world and expose the hidden secrets, lies and denial, which run rampant among this chosen lifestyle. Watch these intriguing stories from men as they truthfully explain their manipulation and deception tactics towards their women/wives, their fears of exposure, and their struggle to stay hidden or come clean. Allen, hopefully leading by example, faces women of his past and candidly describes his experiences with women and men while living many years within the DL world. Watch DL secrets further unravel during real-life interviews from two "un-identified" men (i.e. a professional athlete and a married physician of twenty-one years) currently living on the DL and three men who have come clean from living this lifestyle. Journey with an Artist, Ijumo Hayward, who fled his home country Bermuda ten years ago, when his wife discovered through his renderings his hidden secret life and threatened to exposed him to his prominent family and business associates. The documentary concludes with an intimate group of women, hosted by Journalist Chandra R. Thomas of Atlanta Magazine, expressing their diverse views, some sharing their real-life experiences of being misled, feelings of frustration and violation, failed expectations, and finally accepting the fact that some men will continue to choose to live a "down low" lifestyle. Watch as these women obtain all of the answers to their burning DL questions from former DL men and two un-identified current DL men. The women go toe-to-toe with the DL men and it gets pretty heated.

Since Kevin is no longer living this double life and hurting others he feels liberated and at peace with himself. Allen says he fought with business partner and best friend Maurice Townes and manger Ronda Noel regarding exposing his former down low lifestyle to the world. He continues, "I didn't want to be viewed as one of those men that's jumping on the sensationalism of the down low craze. When my business partners pointed out to me the legitimate reasons for developing this project/piece, we had to move forward with it.' Ronda, a heterosexual, married mother of three, who's a Christian, explained to us, '-- this DL thing is everyone's problem. It needs to be addressed correctly.' She continued to voice concerns about her children and the preservation of the younger generation. Ronda continued, 'we need to nip this in the bud now and not leave yet another issue for our children to resolve.' Maurice, who's an openly gay Black man, loved the idea because it provided him with another avenue to drive his nagging message of the behavior of DL men to the forefront."

Never in Allen's wildest dreams did he expect his soap opera, The CLOSET, to give birth to the documentary Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low. The CLOSET was created to display positive images of the gay and lesbian community and to expose the hidden, deceitful and manipulative down low lifestyle that's running rampant among men/women of all races. Kevin concludes by stating, "I just want people who are on the down low to see our products, look within themselves and analyze the way they are living their lives."

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Up Close With

Stanly Bennet Clay

Photo credit: Andre LaVelle

Story By: Dwight Powell
Interview By: Justin Hall

In Search Of Pretty Young Black Men

A veteran in the publishing and entertainment field, Stanley Bennett Clay is no stranger to the Black Gay Community. Probably best know for his magnificent magazine SBC, published out of Los Angeles, Stanley is an icon admired and idolized for decades. Born in Chicago, Illinois Clay has been a Los Angeles resident since 1963.

Over the years Clay has gained various awards and distinctions. Among them, Clay received 3 NAACP Theatre Awards and 3 Drama-logue Awards for writing, directing and co-producing the stage play *Ritual.* Also, he is the first recipient of the African American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award (1990) and received Genre magazine's 1993 Role Model to the Gay Community's Lifeguard Award.

Clay produced on stage the GLAAD, LA. Weekly, LA. Times and NAACP Award-winning musical *Children of the Night* and the world premiere of James Graham Bronson's *Willie & Esther*. That production received 2 LA. Weekly Awards---Best Play and Best Ensemble Performance.

Clay also wrote, produced, directed and composed *Street Nativity* (a musical commissioned by the National Council of Negro Women for the Black Family Reunion Festival), wrote, produced and directed the play *Lovers*, directed the west coast productions of Jonin' (Drama-logue Award/Direction) and *The First Breeze of Summer* (for which he also wrote the musical score), produced and starred in (opposite BerNadette Stanis) Anna

Lucasta (for which he received the NAACP Best Actor Image Award), and produced, directed and wrote the musical score for such original stage shows as *Nobody Likes Ugly* and *Don't Ask!*

He is the author of the novels *Diva (Holloway House)* and *In Search of Pretty Young Men* (Simon & Schuster/Atria Books). The latter was just awarded The N.Y. Hotep Society Book Award for Best Gay Novel. He is the recipient of the International Black Writers of America's highest honor, The Edna Crutchfield Founder's Literary Achievement Award "In recognition of outstanding work as writer, publisher, producer and director of the written word."

Former Editor-In-Chief of Black Beat magazine and American Correspondent for London's Blues and Soul magazine, Clay published and edited SBC magazine for 10 years, at the time the most widely distributed periodical for the black gay and lesbian community.

Mr. Clay's new musical, *Looking For God*, premiered at the Celebrity Centre Garden Pavilion in Los Angeles on May 11th of 2004 and the stage version of *Why Do Fools Fall In Love*, for which he co-wrote the music and lyrics, is slated for a Broadway run during the fall 2006 season..

Clikque Magazine's associate, Justin Hall recent spoke with Clay and provided us with this intimate one on one interview.

[Justin] I have known Stanley Bennett Clay from afar, and as I came into my own homosexuality in the 90s there was a magazine, SBC, which let me know that there were others like me.

SBC is no longer in production, but clearly from reading this article thus far, you'll agree that Mr. Clay is definitely still producing

At the end of my conversation I came away with the feeling or rather the knowledge that Mr. Clay is a passionate man who loves his life and Black men.

Let's glance over some of the sound bites from our recent phone interview.

[Justin] What or who adds to the happiness of Stanley Bennett Clay?

[Clay] Being myself. Loving self and embracing the totality of me. Loving my Blackness, me being left-handed living in a right-handed world, my Gayness and me being an artist. What others may see as a weakness I see it or them as a strength.

I am a 55-year-old Black Gay Man with a 22-year old boyfriend and to those people who have issues with that I say, Fuck em and feed em beans,

I was openly gay before Stonewall.

I appreciate and am grateful to those individuals who say that I am talented. I write music, direct films, I had a wonderful acting career, and it continues. I do not take these gifts for granted."

[Justin] What is your opinion on the current state of Black Gay Men?

[Clay] I find it fascinating and depressing.

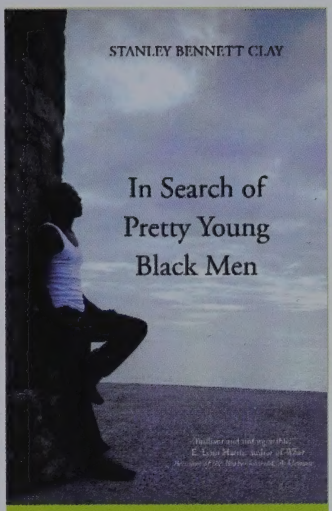
I recall fondly the freeness of the 60s and 70s and how the effects of HIV/AIDS has offset that freedom, at least sexually.

A man is in essence a man. It is not limited to being or defining yourself as a thug, being on the DL, feeling that you are a walking dick, fuck 24/7, having 20 babies, not able to hug another man, not being able to cry.

A man to me as I consider myself is one who is able to cry, able to say that I love another man. It is so many things.

It is about being a soft man or a trans man and embracing

CLAY CONTINUES ON PAGE 44



IN SEARCH OF PRETTY YOUNG BLACK MEN is the tale of Dorian Moore, a mysterious and seductive young man who provides comfort to the moneyed, the neglected, the lost, and the lonely men and women in an elegant black hilltop community in Southern California.

Among the women is Maggie Lester-Allegro, who, dissillusioned by a loveless marriage, finds support in her small circle of women friends and sexual healing in Dorian's arms.

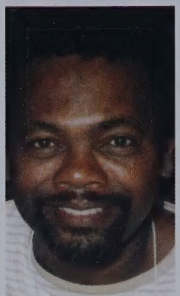
Maggie's husband, Lamont, seeks sexual solace outside of their trophy marriage as well. He lives in the shadow of his larger-than-life father, a member of the Baldwin Hills gentry, and under the weight of secrets and lies that threaten to tumble the walls of his carefully guarded life and standing among the elite.

This novel is a poetically rendered, provocative, and revealing tale that challenges every notion of what we believe equals success, prestige, and, most of all, love.

(Simon & Schuster/Atria Books)

CLAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

those qualities about you." "The Silent Sissies of the Pew is a term I call some men who sit in church while their preacher demonizes their sexuality all the while asking for money that they put in the collection plate.



Stanley Bennett Clay

[Justin] Mr. Clay is there Hope?

[Clay] Yes, there is hope, as this too shall pass.

[Justin] Mr. Clay loves Black people and especially the Black man. When talking with him as our phone conversation exceeded 15 minutes (lol) you hear the passion in his voice of not just loving his brothers but also loving himself as he too is a Black Man.

[Clay] Black people are marvelous. From slavery to present we don,t just achieve, we over-achieve.

[Justin] He does say that we as a community tend to be much harder on ourselves than that of others not of our race. Mr. Clay wants each of us to stand in front of a mirror naked and behold the beauty that stands before you.

[Clay] We are so pretty that it's stupid.

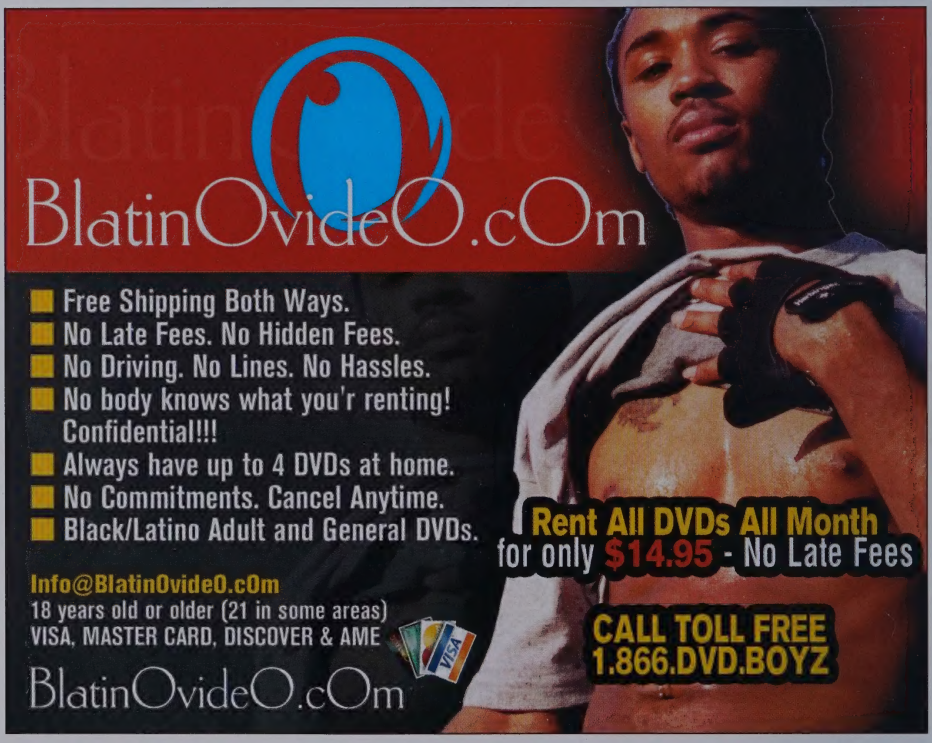
[Justin] Mr. Clay says that for too long we as Black Gay Men have fallen into the myth that gay is equated to only those who are white, which as many of us know for sure is false. We are Black Gay Men who love other Men. Mr. Clays says that those in power intentionally keep people ignorant as you are then able to control them. Mr. Clays message to Black Gay Men:

[Clay] Black Gay Men keep in mind that there are a lot of people who are not going to like you be you Black and/or Gay and I encourage you to not internalize that and feel that you are a bad person as you are not. If someone does not like you on the basis that you are a Black Gay Man say what I say, fuck em and feed em beans.

[Justin] What do you know for sure. What resonates for you?

[Clay] I know for sure that I am living a privileged and blessed life. In spite of the challenges that I have been and continue to live in this skin, think these thoughts, and be able to express myself as I do, is really a good thing. I like being Stanley Bennett Clay

A D V E R T I S E M E N T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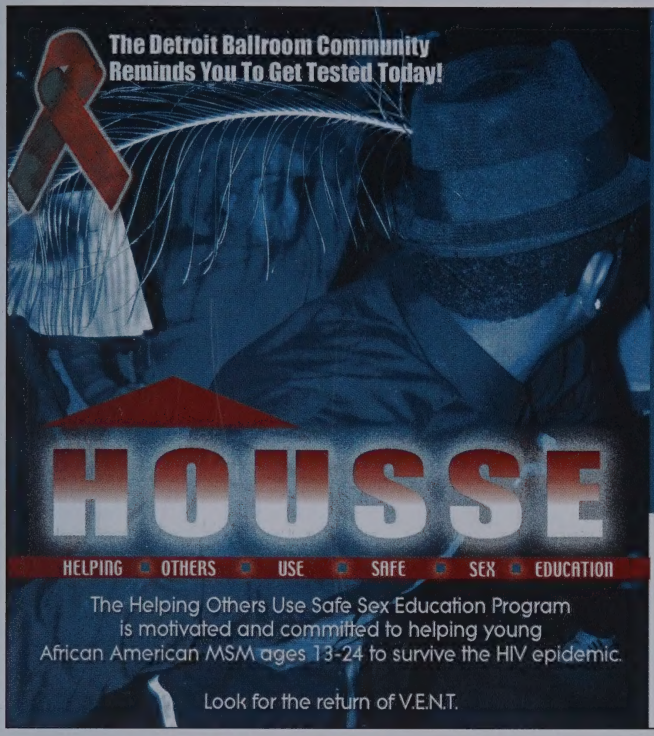
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Exploring The World Behind The Lens of

Jerry Boles

Jerry Boles started in front of the camera, and on stage during the era when Beverly Johnson, Renault White and Ben Wilson were at the helm of their career, Grace Jones was just beginning to gain popularity in the underground music market. Back then it was hard for Jerry because he was from the projects in the Southside of Chicago, For a short time Jerry was in a street gang, but soon found his way in pursuit of his calling....behind the camera.

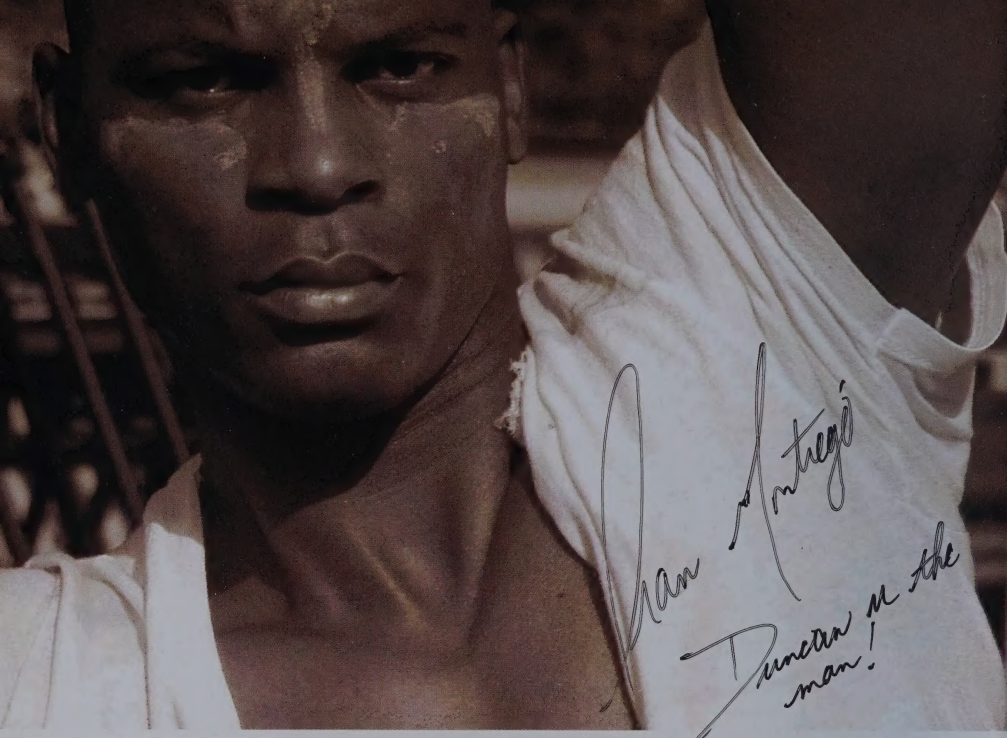
He got his first exposure in the fashion while working at the Conrad Hilton in 1979. (Now called the Chicago Hilton and Towers). Jerry soon moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, California and became extremely intrigue with the fashion industry. Working at the Hilton and living in LA. opened his eyes to a lot of things, Jerry had the opportunities to be in the company of some of the richest people in the world and walk down some of the most famous streets neighborhoods during that period. All of this changed his perception on life. Jerry soon realized that although he and his family once lived ion welfare in the projects of Chicago, with dedication, commitment and hard work he would not have to live in poverty again.

This drive and determination took Jerry back to Chicago where he got involved in the Fashion Industry with Tony Mitchell. Tony took Jerry in and schooled him about life, (Gay life in particularly) fashion, designing and photography. Tony owned a beauty salon, modeling school, hosted his own T.V. Show and Radio Show. All of the Top Black Radio Stations and Promoters were asking us to do Fashion Shows almost three and four nights a week, This put Jerry right in the mist of the Fashion and Entertainment Industry. For several years that is all he did; Eat, sleep fashion, designing, fashion shows, voiceovers,...you named it, he had his hands in it.

Eventually, Jerry started his own Production Company and began putting on shows an working with Models in Chicago, Spending a lot of time helping models get their portfolio together, Jerry interviewed some of the top fashion photographers in the city. "One of the Model s introduce me to a photographer from Rome Italy. Her Name was Antonella Pizzoli and

BOLES CONTINUES ON PAGE 48

Jerry Boles Photography



BOLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

we became friends and I asked her to teach me how to photograph," Recalls Jerry. He was honored to be working with Antonella, because she was one of the world's top photographer and well respected. Her work was on all of sorts of magazine covers and billboards.

Clikque recently caught-up with Jerry Boles in Atlanta, his current home for the past 4 years. Here are some moments he shared with us;

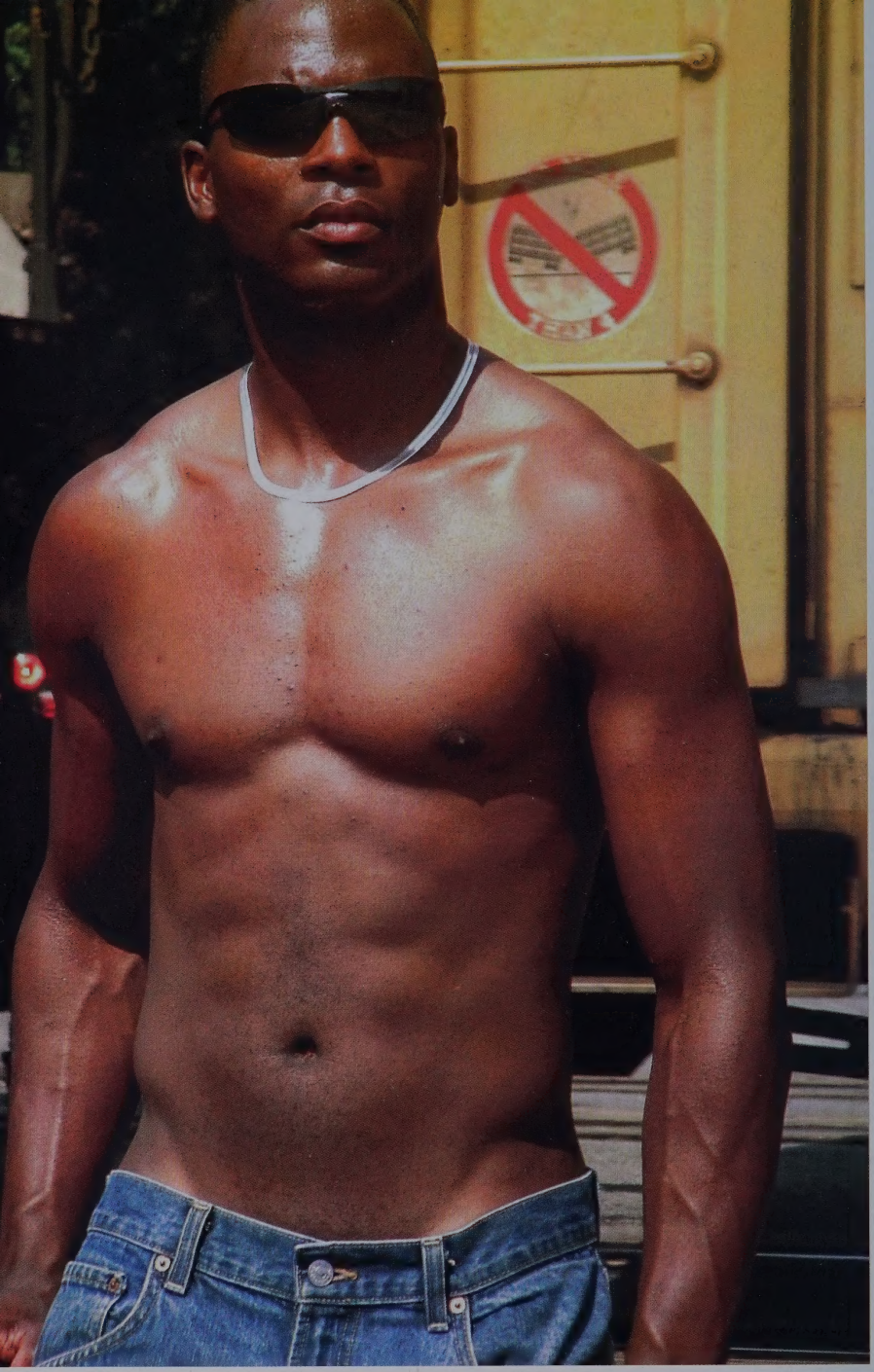
My first success story was a model I discovered waling down State Street In Chicago, her name was Ava, and she was picked a finalist in the "FACE of 80 Contest " For the Ford Modeling Agency of New York. My second discovery was a messenger named Rich Kirk, and he had this "James Dean" look. He was instantly grabbed up by a top agency in Chicago. I think the one that really got me to start thing about pursuing photography professionally was a young man that walked into office one-day looking like "Clark Kent" and I sent him to one of my photographers, he was instantly swept up by one of the agency in Chicago. He first advertisement was for Marshall Field. I was so excited by all of the talent I was meeting off the streets. Talents whose careers had taken off in such a short period of time.

Sidetracked by my personal relationship and other stuff I became less intrigued with photography. After the person whom I considered to be my life-partner walked out of my life....I was devastated...he was the key to keeping me going. I dropped out of sight for a while and would only show up at a fashion show here and there.....and maybe do a few shoots but I was not pursuing my career as much as I needed to. I took on another career as an armed security officer with special assignments that almost made me decided a pursue a career as a law enforcement officer. After 64 arrest, court cases, raids and being shot at a few times. I decided that this was not a life choice for me. So, I decided to go back to something I love doing and I didn't have to wear 30-45lb of gear for 8-11 hours per day.

In 1999 I visited Atlanta where I met a young man that introduces me to the Internet. He showed me how to put my work online and within a few months I had editors and publishers contact me about previewing my photography in their magazines, advertisement, etc. I was actually overwhelmed by the response from people I have never met. I was so excited when Clikque Magazine accepted one of my models in their ad campaign for the first Tampa Jamz 2000. This was a great opportunity for the both of us during that period. I met another photographer named Rondu; I was so fascinated by her work, the models...stunning. I wondered to myself, how she was able to find those types of models. She told me to head South and I started working on plans to re-locate to Atlanta. Today, I utilize the Internet tremendously because it allows me to connect on a global scale.

Since relocating to Atlanta, in 2001 Jerry Boles work has been viewed in 40 countries worldwide, countless of magazines advertisements and promotional material. He has a lot of offers on table and is evaluating each one of them very carefully. With Jerry's parting words, he has this to say: "I want to make sure that each offer is a benefit for the models and myself. I am very particular when it comes to selecting models to be in front of my cameras. That is hard to explain...but I can tell you this much....photography is a true passion....it allows me to LIVE."

Jerry Boles Photography



Jerry Boles Photography

Jerry Boles Photography

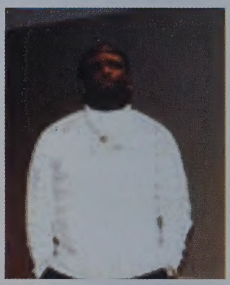
International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta

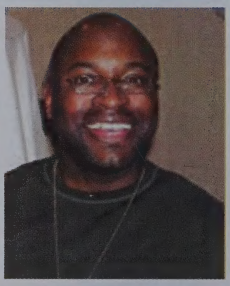
Earl Fowlkes

IFBP kicks off 2005 with annual conference

IFBP got off to a great start in 2005 with the annual IFBP Conference. The event took place the latter part of January in Atlanta, GA. Attendees of the conference included members of the IFBP Executive, Membership and Development committees.

The primary focus of 2005's conference was the current organizational restructure of IFBP and future growth of the federation. A Board of Directors was established as part of the restructure and three new cities added to the federation's membership -- San Diego, Dallas, and Tampa Bay (Central Florida). In addition, former DC Black Pride President Earl Fowlkes was named IFBP President/CEO.





International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta

Above Left to right:
Julian High, HRC;
Earl Fowlkes,IFBP;
Donna Payne, HRC;
Michael Slaughter, ITLA
Dr. G. Roberts, CDC.
Photo by Johnny Lee Jenkins

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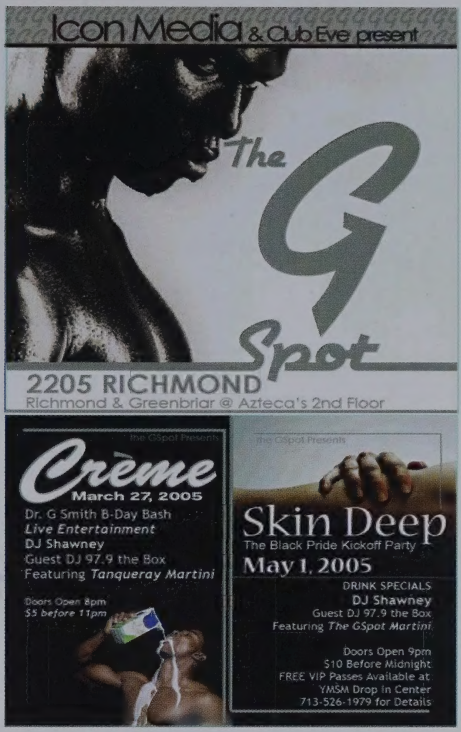
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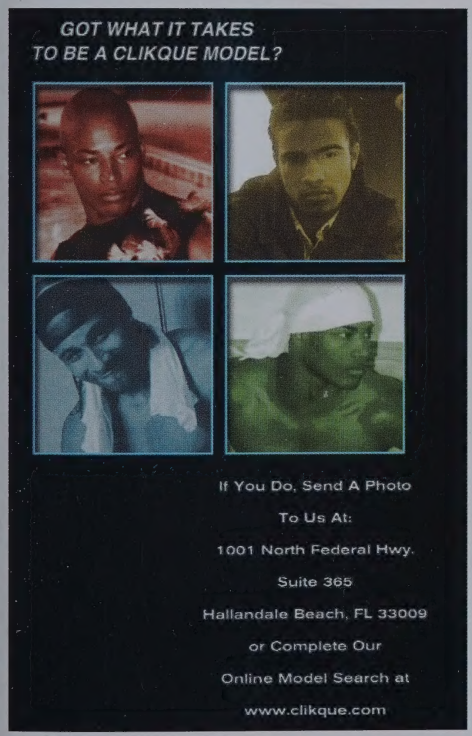
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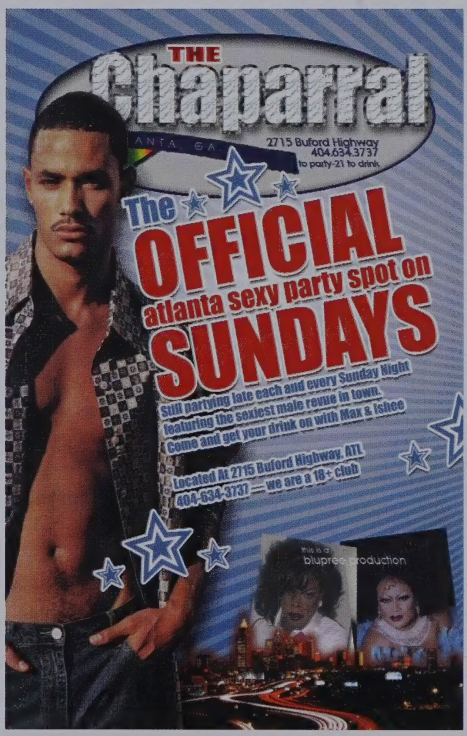
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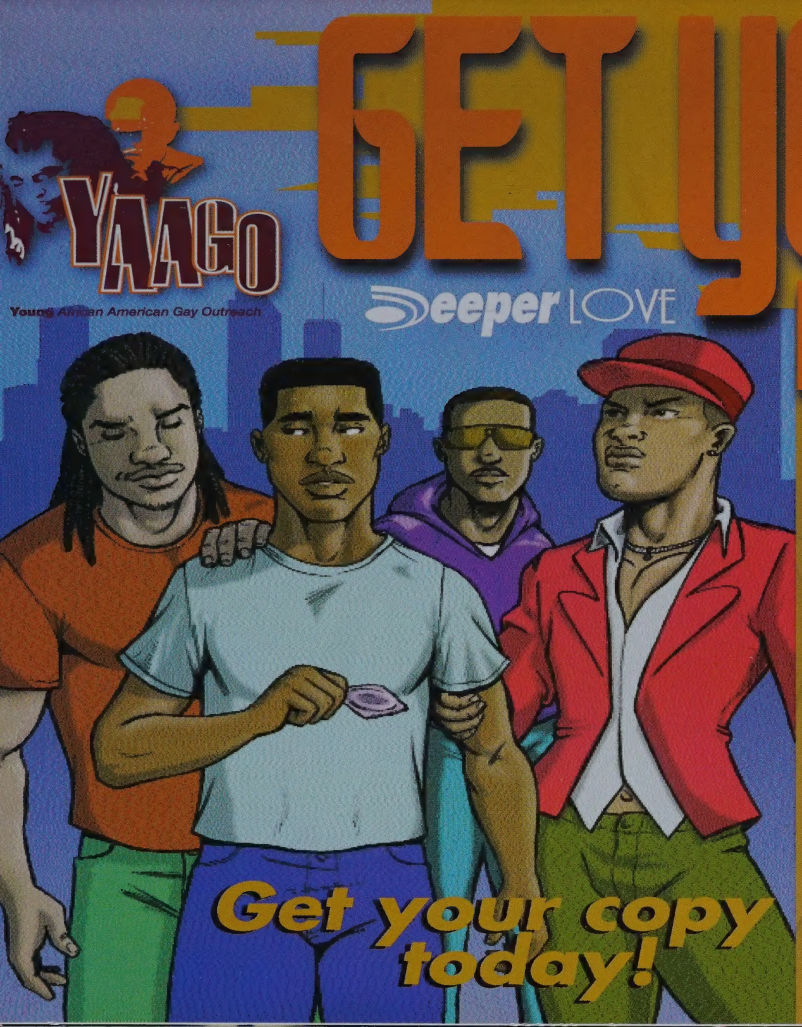

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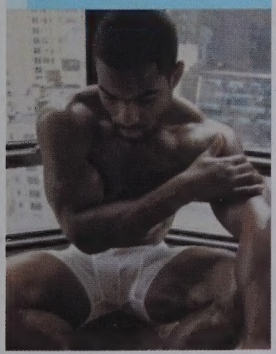
Exploring The SUPER BUG

Drug Resistant Strain of HIV Identified in New York

Q&A

This past February, New York City health officials reported that a local gay man in his mid-40s had recently been infected with multidrug-resistant HIV and progressed rapidly to AIDS. The man was first diagnosed with HIV this past December and is believed to have been infected between 2 and 20 months before experiencing symptoms of AIDS, including a steep drop in CD4 cells and a high viral load. It has also been reported that he has had a history of unprotected anal sex with multiple male partners while using crystal methamphetamine (crystal meth, speed).

Lab tests showed that the dominant viral strain in his body was a virulent form that was resistant to the first three antiretroviral drug classes: nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), and protease inhibitors (PIs). However, the man was reportedly responsive to the fusion inhibitor T-20 (enfuvirtide, Fuzeon).



Is this case really new?

Multi-drug-resistant strains of HIV are not new. Neither is rapid progression from HIV infection to clinical AIDS diagnosis–in some cases, within months–for some individuals. What is new about this case is the combination of drug resistance in a previously untreated person and such rapid progression to AIDS (in this case, CD4 counts below 100 cells/mm3 for more than a month). New York City health officials say that such quick progression to AIDS has not been seen before in a person with HIV resistant to three antiretroviral drug classes. This man's virus also appears to be a virulent, not weakened, form of virus that is associated with rapid disease progression. It would be premature, however, to draw sweeping assumptions or conclusions based on this limited information. Much more needs to be learned in the coming weeks about this case and its implications.

Has such rapid progression from HIV infection to AIDS diagnosis been seen before?

According to experts, the average time between HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis is 10 years or longer. However, this timeframe varies. Some people progress to AIDS more quickly than others due to their own susceptibility, not necessarily because of a new "supervirus." Crystal meth use and others factors specific to the individual have been mentioned as potentially affecting his progression to AIDS, but details about his medical history have not been fully released.

How concerned should I be about being infected with such a strain of the virus?

Certainly, the potential to become infected with drug-resistant virus is real and has been seen not just in this case but in other cases around the country. Drug-resistant HIV is a problem because treatment options become limited when the virus mutates and doesn't respond to multiple drugs and entire drug classes. For those who are already HIV positive, there is a small but potential risk of becoming reinfected with a different viral strain. But this one case in New York doesn't prove that

there is a "supervirus" spreading in the community. More questions still need to be answered.

What can I do to protect myself from drug resistant HIV?

HIV infection, whether drug-resistant or not, can be prevented. For those who are sexually active, standard safer sex practices – in particular regular use of condoms when engaging in higher-risk sexual practices and knowing your HIV status and the HIV status of your partner – are known to be effective tools in reducing the risk of HIV transmission.

For injection drug users it is safest to use a new sterile syringe and equipment (including cotton, filters, caps, spoons, cookers, and alcohol swabs) every time you inject. You can obtain new syringes at needle exchange sites or pharmacies in some locations.

For more information about risk behavior, HIV testing, and needle exchange locations, call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS or visit www.aidshotline.org

Can I be tested for drug resistance?

Yes. Two different tests, known as genotypic and phenotypic tests, can be used by clinicians to check for drug-resistant HIV. For more information about these tests, you can contact your physician or call Project Inform's National Hotline at 1-800-822-7422 or visit www.projectinform.org

If I use crystal meth, am I more likely to get HIV or AIDS?

The New York case does not show a direct link between crystal meth use and the progression to AIDS. However, health providers are concerned that crystal meth use is contributing to new HIV infections by lowering sexual inhibitions and impairing judgment. It is also believed that crystal meth may negatively impact the body's immune system. Injecting speed, particularly when sharing needles, carries the additional risk of HIV and hepatitis transmission.

How can I learn more about preventing HIV and getting tested?

Call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS or visit www.aidshotline.org

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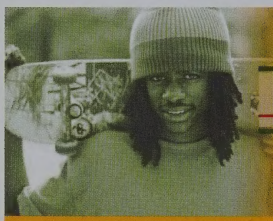

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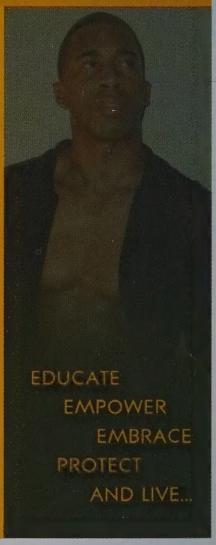

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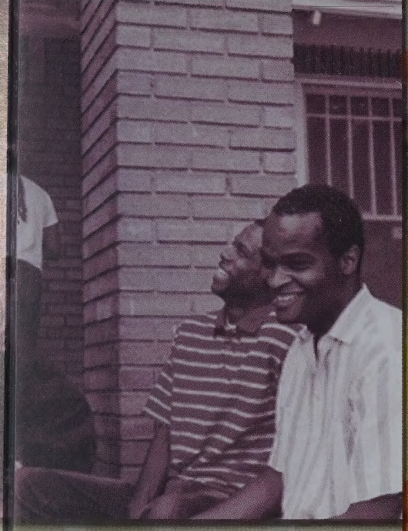

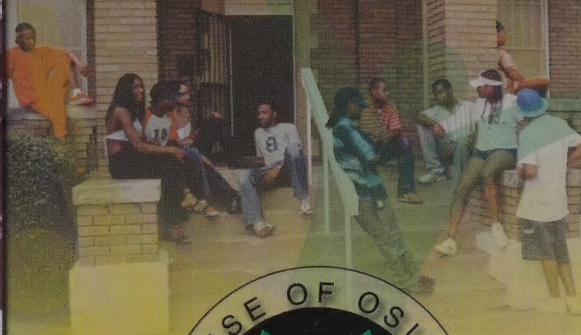

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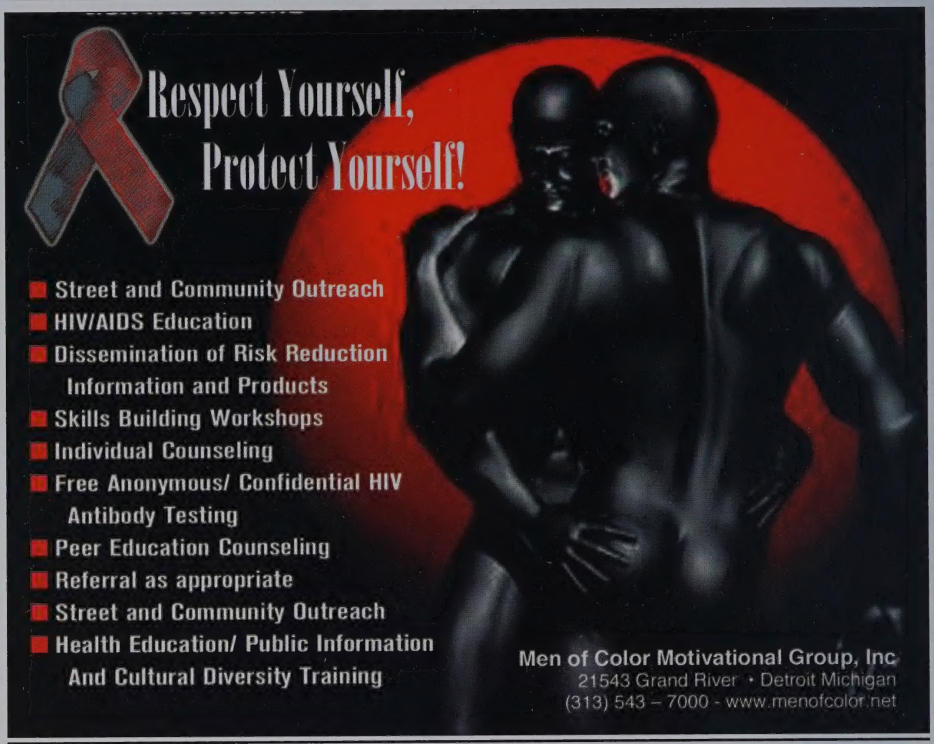
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CLIKQUE MAGAZINE • APRIL 2005 • V6 #3

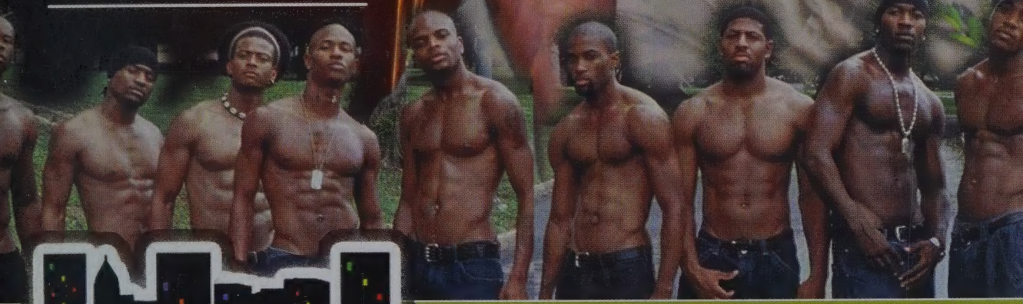
ANNUAL

Black Prides & Circuits ISSUE

2005

Your Ultimate Guide To Brooklyn, NY & Dozens Of Other Pride Cities

Also Inside:
International Federation Of Black Prides



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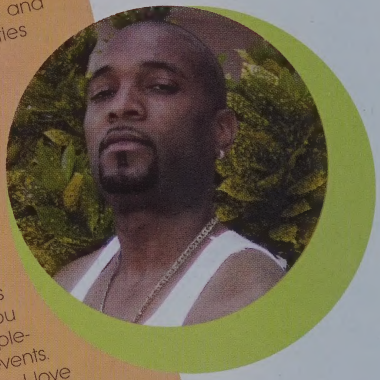
editorial

PRIDE

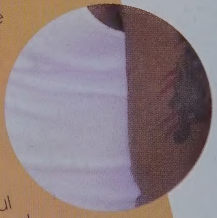
YEAR 2K5

We are really excited about this issue of Clikque and hope that you'll enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it all together for you. We do our best and try our hardest to keep you informed about the various events and activities across the nation. Being the only rag (Black Gay Magazine) left on the block, we consider this task a welcome responsibility.

In this issue, you'll be introduced to a national body, The International Federation Of Black Prides, an organization that we hope will make an impeccable difference in the enhancement of Black Gay Pride events nationwide. A unified organization working to enhance the lives and social consciousness of our communities could not have come at a better time.



Over the past few years, "pride" events around the nations are being drastically transformed into mega meeting grounds for parties and sex, with little to no focus on the educational, social, and political aspects of what prides were initially intended to represent. For those cities that recognized their events and gatherings as a pride event, I humbly stress that you go back to the days of old and implement all of the elements of pride events. There is nothing wrong with parties; I love a good party, however covering all bases makes your event well rounded. This in itself should appease all that wish to partake in the festivities.



I encourage you to support not only the major events in the larger cities, but also the smaller pride events right in your backyard. Pride organizers put a lot of energy and hard work into putting on successful events and your participation and support can go a long way in making the events bigger and better.

Enjoy the national pride and circuit events of 2005.

Dwight Powell

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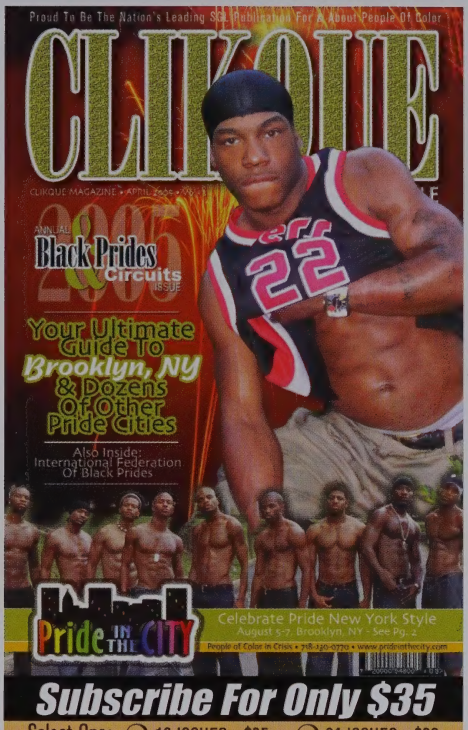
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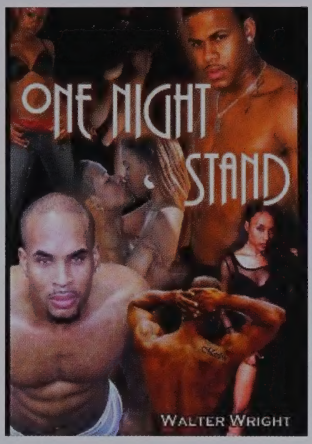

The Who's Who of the African-American gay community will all be there, with one question on their minds: Who is going home with whom? While some will come to mend their broken hearts and some will come to get their groove back, all have one thing in common: A One Night Stand!

This book explores relationships with friends, lovers and siblings. **"One Night Stand"** is a definite page turner and a must read. While leaving you wanting more, Wright promises the next book will include the same characters you love and some new players.

About The Author

Walter Wright, a native of Lumberton, N.C., began writing to amuse the readers and educate people on the gay lifestyle. Already a cartoonist, Wright felt the need to tell a story with words, as an alternative to pictures.

Wright, a former D.C. resident, experienced the dual nature of the black gay community; kindness and friendliness reside on one side, while avarice and duplicity mire the other. Wright began to chronicle these experiences and produced **"One Night Stand"** The infusion of his creativity and wicked sense of humor gave birth to the books title. After all, the pleasured event of a **"One Night Stand"** is a parallel act for all readers.

"One Night Stand" is available at a Bookstore near you.

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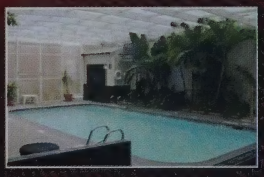

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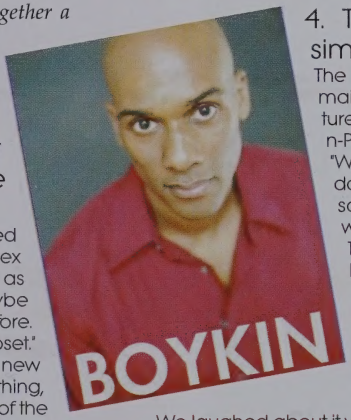
10 Things You Should Know About the DL

by Keith Boykin

It's coming again. Get ready for a new round of news stories about the down low. It started last year with a wave of media hype and sensationalism designed to scare black women about men on the DL. But now it's important to separate fact from fiction in this delicate conversation.

Almost everything we've been told about the down low in recent years is wrong. That's why I've put together a quick list of ten things everyone should know about the down low.



1. The down low is just a black version of "the closet."

The down low is popularly used to refer to men who have sex with men but do not identify as gay or homosexual. Maybe you've heard that concept before. Long ago, we called it "the closet." The term "down low" is just a new way of describing a very old thing, but it's the hot new buzz word of the moment.

2. The down low is not new.

The phrase itself may be new, but the practice is as old as history. Men have been secretly sleeping with men since the beginning of time. And married men have been doing the same thing. The only thing new is what we call it.

3. The down low is not just a black thing.

When Jim McGreevey, the governor of New Jersey, announced last year that he had cheated on his wife with another man, no one bothered to make the obvious point -- Governor McGreevey had been on the down low. When white men do it, we call it what it is and move on. When black men do the same thing, we want to pathologize it. Therein lies a double standard.

4. The down low is not simply a gay thing.

The term "down low" entered the mainstream of black popular culture in the early 1990s. In 1993, Salt-n-Pepa recorded a song called "Whatta Man" that mentioned the down low. In 1994, TLC recorded a song called "Creep" about a woman on the down low. In 1995, Brian McKnight recorded his song, "On the Down Low," about a woman named Maxine on the DL. Then in 1996 and 1998, R. Kelly recorded not one, but two songs about the down low.

We laughed about it when it was a heterosexual thing, but suddenly we became alarmed when we "discovered" that gay and bisexual men were on the down low too. There's another double standard. In reality, the down low is simply about cheating, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual.

5. The down low is not the cause of the black AIDS epidemic.

In 2003 (the last year in which we have full CDC data available) there were more than 7,000 black female AIDS cases reported in the United States. Out of that number, only 118 reported "sex with a bisexual male" as the method of exposure. That's just 1.6 percent of all black female AIDS cases. Believe it or not, there are other ways to get infected besides having sex with a man on the down low. Many women are also becoming infected through injection

BOYKIN CONTINUES ON PAGE 11

What's "The T"?

ARCA

The AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta Conducts Study of Tenofovir with Focus on HIV Negative African-American Men Who Have Sex with Men.

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA) is conducting a clinical drug trial called "The T" to test the safety of administering tenofovir to men ages 18 to 60 in the Atlanta area. One hundred African-American, HIV negative, men who have sex with men will participate in the study and will be followed for two years. One hundred men from the larger community also will be recruited. Tenofovir is an approved medicine for people living with HIV/AIDS.

There is a real need for participants in HIV/AIDS clinical research to reflect the demographics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In the Atlanta area, this means that African-Americans must participate to be sure that tenofovir is as safe in African-Americans as it is for others. Often African-Americans are under-represented in clinical trials and therefore less is known about how medications specifically affect Blacks. This is the reason ARCA is committed to enroll half of the Atlanta participants from the African-American communities.

ARCA and the San Francisco Department of Public Health are the only research sites in the U.S. for this study. Each site will enroll 200 men. With an effective vaccine years at least a decade away, there is evidence and hope that tenofovir, which is used to treat HIV, may play an important role in reducing HIV infection worldwide.

This study will help answer questions regarding the behavioral and medical safety of tenofovir's use. We will reinforce proven prevention strategies and will work to safeguard the well being of all study participants. Extensive counseling will be provided at each visit to assist the participants in reducing HIV risk behaviors. Free testing for HIV will be provided to all study participants at any time throughout their participation in the study.

Since 1989, ARCA has participated in studies resulting in the licensing of 21 of the 24 drugs currently approved for the treatment of HIV.

Contact: Lynwood Miller, RN, Duncan E. Teague
Tom Garner, Executive Director **404.876.2317**

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BOYKIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

drug use, sex with an injection drug user, and sex with a heterosexual (not down low) man.

Focusing on the down low misleads women to think that the down low is a health threat instead of HIV. That's a serious mistake. A man on the down low who is HIV negative cannot pass the virus to you, but a straight man who is not on the down low could easily give you HIV if he is infected with the virus. The down low does not cause AIDS. HIV causes AIDS.

6. The down low discussion is a distraction from the real issues.

All the time we've spent sensationalizing the down low in the past few years is time we could have spent talking about solutions to the AIDS epidemic in our communities.

On an individual level, we need to encourage men and women to exercise personal responsibility. On an institutional level, we need to mobilize our churches, fraternities, sororities and civic organizations so they can provide reliable safe sex information, HIV testing, and nonjudgmental counseling. And on a public policy level, we need to talk about free testing facilities, needle exchange programs, condoms in prison, targeted AIDS prevention funding, resources for low-income people living with AIDS, and safe sex education in public schools. That's the dialogue we should be having.

7. There are no "signs" to tell if a man is on the down low.

There are going to be a lot of people out there trying to tell you how to find out if your man is on the DL. Don't waste your time. The whole point of the down low is that these are people who do not want to be detected. The moment you come up with a "guidebook" to give you some warning signs is the moment when men on the down low will devise new strategies to elude you.

8. Becoming a "down low detective" is not the answer.

Log onto various Internet web sites about the down low, and you'll find lots of information about how to spy on your partner. Sure, you could hire a private investigator to follow him around when he goes to work, but what does that say about your relationship? If you do suspect something is fishy, you may be in for a shocking surprise. Your man may be cheating on you -- with another woman!

A better solution is to confront the homophobia in our community that contributes to the down low. If we want to stop the down low, then we need to create a climate where men (and women) don't feel the need to be on the down low in the first place. Then we won't have as many men who feel forced into fake relationships to keep the parents, friends and nosey neighbors out of their lives.

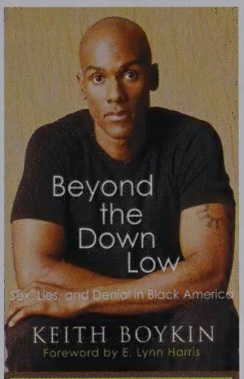
9. Demonizing men on the down low will not make them straight.

One popular response to the down low is to demonize all down low men as villains. That may make us feel a little better for a moment, but it won't change the reality of who they are. In fact, demonizing men on the down low is more likely to push these men further into denial about their sexuality. People often ask, "Why don't these men simply come out and say they're gay?" That's a good question, but as long as we keep demonizing homosexuality, don't expect any mass confessions to happen anytime soon.

10. Stereotyping women as victims will not keep them safe.

Much of the discussion about the down low recently has portrayed women as "victims" of black men. Framing the issue this way disempowers women from the ability to protect themselves, reinforces negative stereotypes about black men and encourages an unhealthy battle of the sexes in the black community.

The media machine behind the down low business (and it is a business) has tried to exploit women's fears about the DL in order to make a quick buck. But fear is not the answer. Education is. Knowledge is power, and all women and men need to know the truth.



Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.

A popular lecturer, Keith has traveled to 16 countries and 48 of the 50 United States. His new book, Beyond the Down Low, was released in February 2005 and immediately shot to the New York Times bestsellers list. Currently, he writes daily commentary on his website, keithboykin.com, which averages more than 70,000 hits per day, making it the leading website of its kind. Keith was born in St. Louis, Missouri and lives in New York City.

ifbp
International Federation of Black Prides

Spring, 2005

Greetings Black Pride Organizers and Attendees:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend good wishes for successful 2005 Black Pride events in the United States, Canada and around the globe. The International Federation of Black Prides, Inc (IFBP) represents twenty one Black Prides events in Nashville, Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, Charlotte, Atlanta, Jacksonville, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Toronto, Dallas, San Diego, Central Florida (Tampa Bay), and South Africa.

The IFBP is a collation of Black Pride organizers formed to promote a multinational network of LGBT/Same Gender Loving Pride and community-based organizations dedicated to building solidarity, promoting unity, and ensuring the development of education, economic empowerment, health education and awareness, individual and collective work, responsibility and self determination.

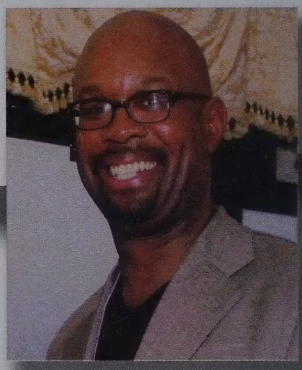
We are a strong community despite our struggles against racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia and all those forces that attempt to demean and belittle us as a people. One of the major cornerstones of the Black Pride movement is that these events allow us to acknowledge and celebrate our duality of being both African American/Black and LGBT - equally and without shame. We as African American/Black members of the LGBT community must continue to learn how to define ourselves in a way that embrace all parts of our lives which include our families, our places of worships, our culture, our race and our personal choices.

As the IFBP and the African American/Black community continues to grow, I know that
we will continue to find common grounds in which to be supportive of one another in our struggle to achieve equality.

Peace,

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.

Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr.,
President & CEO



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HISTORY

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, Detroit, Minneapolis, and Washington, DC. in 1999. The coalition saw a need to organize the twenty plus Black Prides in the United States and abroad for the purpose of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

In November 2000, the original seven cities, in addition to Los Angeles and Jacksonville, formalized IFBP, adopted bylaws, and elected officers. In April 2001, IFBP extended invitations to the remaining Black Prides and prepared for the first annual IFBP Meeting under the new bylaws. As a result of the meeting, the organization produced the 2001 Black Prides in the United States listing, the first official brochure listing of its kind.

In January 2004, IFBP successfully conducted the Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance Conference (SPTA) for members and prospective members. Representatives of eighteen Black Pride cities attended the conference in order to obtain information on improving Pride events. A series of workshops were conducted, topics including event planning, vending package development, sponsorship, media relationships, working with promoters, and other issues centered on producing a successful Black Pride event. In addition, IFBP assisted conference attendees with writing bylaws, completing IRS 501 (c) (3) applications, setting up fiscal systems, and developing Pride organizations. In January 2005, IFBP conducted yet another successful SPTA Conference in Atlanta, GA, one of its purposes to unveil the official IFBP website.

The IFBP adopted a number of organizational changes at our January 2005 meeting. The most important are that the current and only president, Earl Fowlkes will become the President and CEO of the IFBP and will no longer be on the Board of Directors. All four regional vice presidents: East region - Dorena Kearney-Philadelphia Black Gay Pride; Midwest region - Johnny Jenkins - Detroit Hotter Than July; South region - Gervon James - Jacksonville Black Pride; and West region - Wendell Carmichael - LA At The Beach will become staff and a new board will be constituted during the annual meeting in Washington, DC during the 2005 Memorial Day weekend. The 2006 IFBP Annual Meeting will be in Memphis, TN during the MLKJr. weekend.

2005 Goals for the IFBP

Have website up and running within the next 90 days

Implement IFBP 2005 agenda

Obtain office space in Washington, DC (HQ)

Publish a national IFBP Guide

Restructure organization- separate staff and board responsibilities

Develop stronger regional networks that will foster a stronger mentor program

Obtain grants & foundation support to develop stronger Black Pride infrastructure

Develop stronger communications between IFBP and members

Continue to partner with other LGBT and non LGBT national organizations (e.g., NAACP, NBJC, HRC, etc.)

Develop dialogue with African American/Black organizations

More skills building opportunities

Continue to work with community folks interested in starting Black Prides in Columbus, Austin, Louisville, Savannah & other cities

Develop African American/Black Archive Project

2005 Officers

President, **Earl Fowlkes** - Washington DC
East Regional Vice President, **Dorena Kearney** - Philadelphia
Midwest Region Vice President, **Johnny Jenkins** - Detroit
South Region Vice President, **Gervon James** - Jacksonville
West Region Vice President, **Wendell Carmichael** - Los Angeles
Treasurer, **James Saunders** - New York
Secretary, **Anthony Hardaway** - Memphis

Windy City Black Pride, Chicago, IL

International Federation Of Black Prides

ifbp

2004 HIGHLIGHTS

- An increased number of Black Prides committees involved in local community issues (e.g., ban on gay marriage amendments, etc.)
- Successful Get Out the Vote Campaign
- Increased cross promotion among IFBP membership
- Continued representation on the National African American Tobacco Education Network
- Held 7th Annual meeting in Washington, DC
- Regional Vice Presidents taking a more active role in mentoring new prides and guiding potential member through the process
- More discussion with national organizations (e.g. HRC, NGLTF)
- Developing Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual
- Developing Personnel Policies and Procedures manual
- New logo
- Obtain 501 (c)(3) non profit status
- Members of the Executive Comm. attended 12 member Black Prides
- Produced our 5th Annual Black Pride calendar
- The majority of the IFBP members listed themselves as "Pride members of the IFBP"
- Conducted focus groups on the smoking habits of Black LGBT in five BP cities.
- Developed a comprehensive membership criteria and formal membership process
- Received funding for website
- Had successful regional meetings in Baltimore and Atlanta

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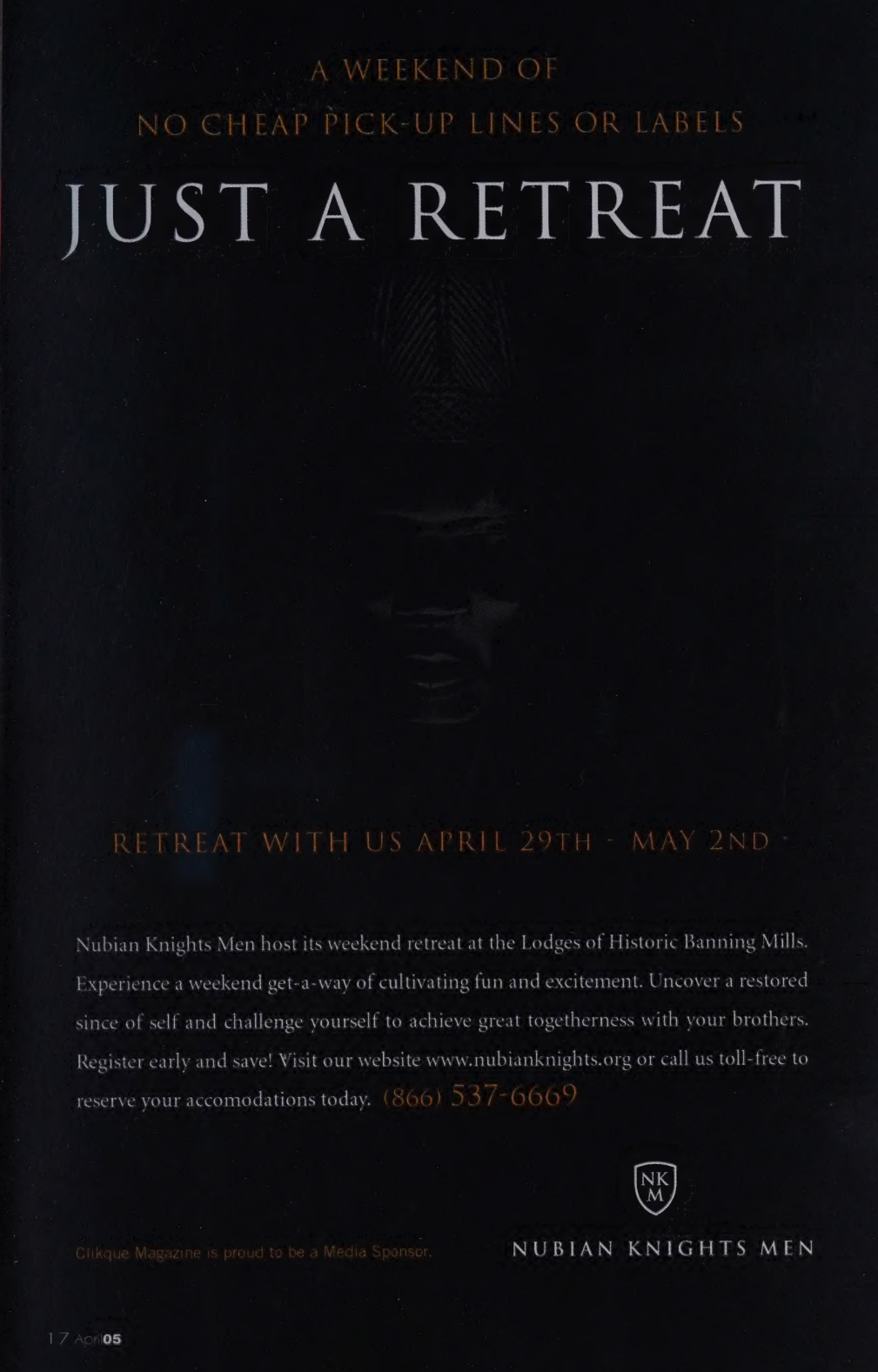

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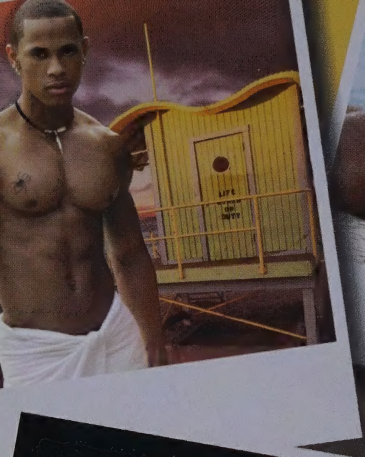

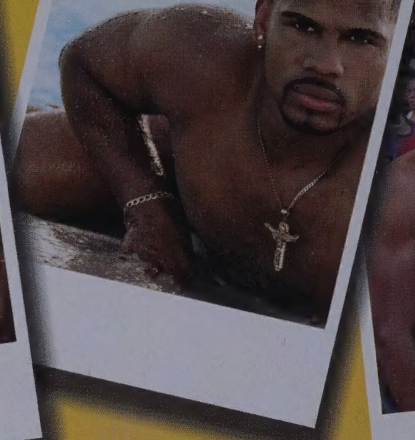

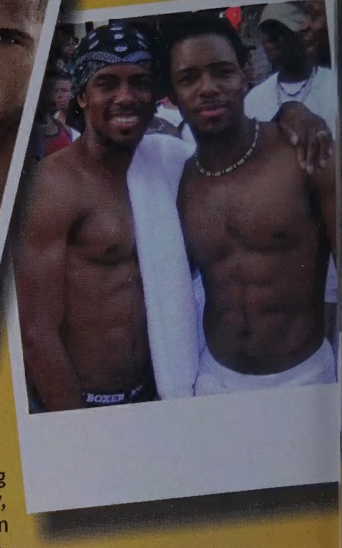

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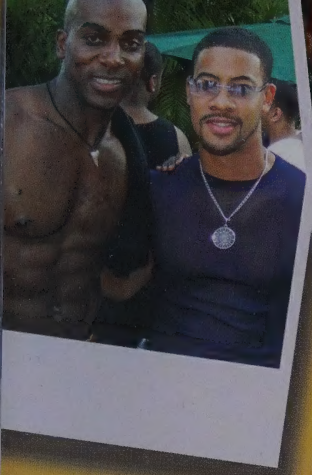

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class of 2005 - national pride leaders

Clikque Magazine would like to salute all of the officers, leaders, and board members of pride events all over the country. These individuals give all of themselves receiving little and in most instances no reward. They do it for the pure love and desire to uplift, enhance and positively showcase our black gay communities

Thanks to all of you for you efforts over the years and best wishes to you for a successful 2005.

DWAYNE JENKINS

Organization
Nashville Black Pride

Position
Founder / President

The Nashville Black Pride Planning Team that assembled all felt that it was time to celebrate the life & culture of African American SGL in our city. 8 years with Brothers United Network, Inc, and 3 years with the Nashville charter of the International Federation of Black Prides Organization.

LORENZO ROBINSON

RICC ROLLINS

Organization
Central Florida Black Pride

Position
Co-Founder / President

Location
Tampa, Florida

The prides of years prior to 2000 we covertly inclusive and never made issue with the fact that there was no real outreach to the SGL community of color. It was at that pride (2000) that the only six African-American attendees said, enough is enough- and the rest is history.

TONEY MORSE

Organization
Philly Dlux / Philadelphia Black Pride

Position
Founder

Location
Philadelphia, PA

Philly Dlux investment club is a Philadelphia based organization established May 30, 2000. This association is comprised of African American Gay Men seeking to develop economic tools of empowerment. Our mission is to create financial security and wealth through strategically investing while forming a society of brotherhood

We aim to produce members who understand the importance of brotherhood and financial stability. DLUX is a social network of progressive, supportive and creative individuals. Our vision is to positively affect the social and economic development of our members while providing nurturing mentorship's for Gay youth of African descent

Philly's DLUX investment club and the members thereof are dedicated to acquiring collective wealth, serving as philanthropists, sponsoring various projects and dedicating time to charitable causes.

JERMAIN LEE

DAMON BLACKMAN

Organization
North Carolina Black Gay Pride

Position
Co-Founders

Location
Tampa, Florida

Charlotte NC is the heart of the oppressive "Bible Belt" and is still an epicenter of racism, classism, intolerance and homophobia. Therefore, this historic Pride Celebration has many layers. It is about more than just entertainment. We are paving the way for further equality and visibility of same gender loving people of color in the southeast. Has our 2005 theme proclaims, "It's A New Day."

GARFIELD LEE

Organization
Dallas Black Gay Pride

Position
President

I strive to make Dallas Black Pride the Neuclus for all Groups, Clubs, organizations of color in the GLBT community.

GARY ENGLISH

Organization
POCC Pride In The City

Position
Executive Director

I chose to be involved in a Black gay HIV prevention agency because I saw the need to make sure that Black gay men in NY and in the country are aware of their HIV status and that they have medical care and services. I feel it's imperative that the Black LGBT community's rights are intact so that we can have a mechanism for fighting racism, homophobia and sexism in the greater community. Being the Executive Director of POCC, I will make sure that the Black LGBT community's voices will be heard. We're not invisible. We want to be recognized.

Washington DC Black Pride
ERIC RICHARDSON / President

Boston Unity Pride
LEE JAMES / President

Memphis TN Black Pride
ANTHONY HARDAWAY / President

Black Pride NYC
JAMES SAUNDERS / Founder

At The Beach LA
WENDELL CARMICHAEL / President

Windy City Black Pride
JOHN ROACH / Officer

Detroit Hotter Than July
HANK MILLBOURNE / President

Pittsburgh Unity Black Pride
DERYCK TINES / President

Jacksonville Florida Black Pride
CHRISTOPHER FOREMAN / President

Indiana Black Pride
ROBERT FERGUSON / President

Minnesota GLBT Soul Essence
JOSEPH WARD / President

Cleveland Black Gay & Proud Celebration
JON EVERETT / President

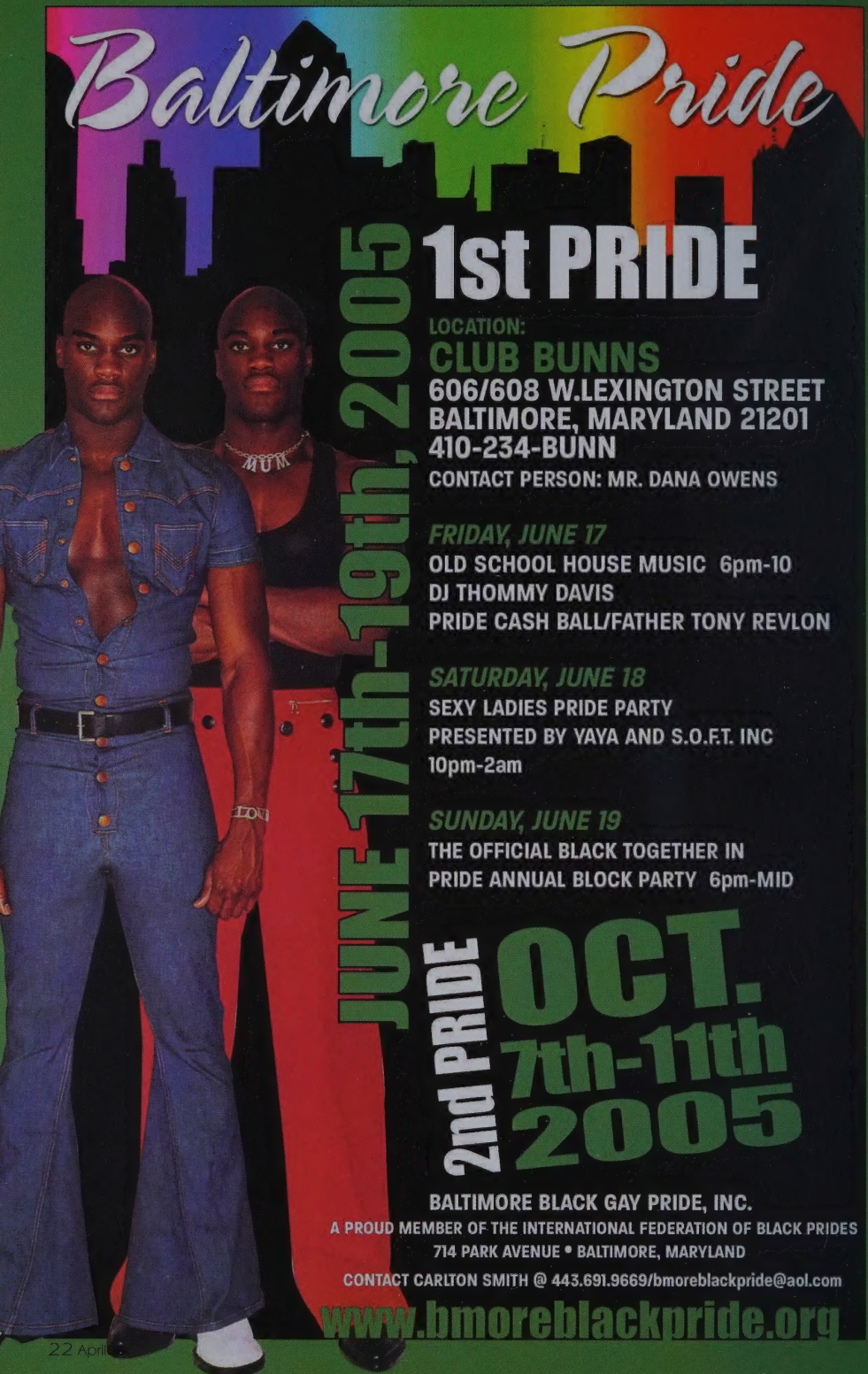
St. Louis Black Pride
ANTHONY GALLOWAY / President

Bay Area Black In The Life Celebration
JOE HAWKINS / President

Ebony Pride San Diego
KEN RILEY / Co-Chair

In The Life Atlanta
MICHAEL SLAUGHTER / President

Baltimore Black Gay Pride
CARTON SMITH / President


Baltimore Pride
1st PRIDE
LOCATION:
CLUB BUNNS
606/608 W.LEXINGTON STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
410-234-BUNN
CONTACT PERSON: MR. DANA OWENS
FRIDAY, JUNE 17
OLD SCHOOL HOUSE MUSIC 6pm-10
DJ THOMMY DAVIS
PRIDE CASH BALL/FATHER TONY REVLON
SATURDAY, JUNE 18
SEXY LADIES PRIDE PARTY
PRESENTED BY YAYA AND S.O.F.T. INC
10pm-2am
SUNDAY, JUNE 19
THE OFFICIAL BLACK TOGETHER IN
PRIDE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY 6pm-MID
JUNE 17th-19th, 2005
2nd PRIDE
OCT.
7th-11th
2005
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www.bmoreblackpride.org

how do we make our BLACK GAY PRIDES more than supersexed-up parties?

By Ricc Rollins, Tampa FL

Coming from what some might think of as the "faux South," the concept of Black Pride was totally foreign until we published our first book, Like Breathing and was told that you have to promote it at "Pride." My exposure to Pride at that point had been limited to the Eurocentric versions that I attended in the early 80's. Needless to say I was amazed at what I would soon discover.

Following the sage advise of my advisors, my business (and then life partner) sojourned to DC for Black Pride. The city bustled with beautiful brothers in every hue and height, I was amazed, to be honest, overwhelmed was more like it and we hadn't even got to the actual Pride event yet. That Saturday, we were invited to Lambda Rising for a signing. I ran into people that I knew from college and others that I had met on other legs of my tour and people from Tampa of all places. I was amazed to see people from Tampa because no one had ever told me about "PRIDE" - they would just mention Memorial Day or DC but never explained why they made this traditional trek every year. It wasn't until later that I would realize why.

Never had I been so proud as I was that Saturday to see brothers- my brothers, come to an event and pack out a place. Again, I was overwhelmed. Remember, I was from Tampa and had never witnessed anything like this. Our "pride" events rarely had Afrocentric attendance except for the few people who I knew from the club- which is where I saw black people that I never seemed to see anywhere else. That always amazed me- still does to this day.

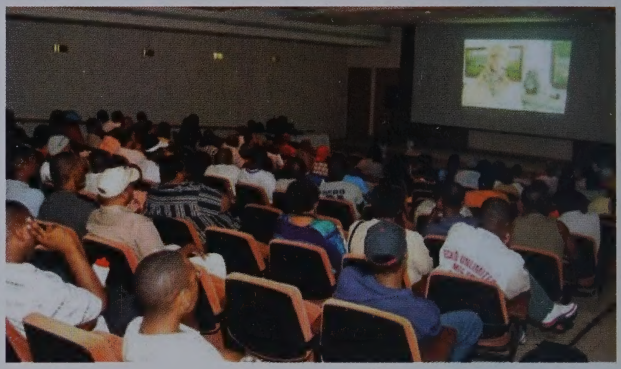
I digress, the signing went well and we sold everything that we had with us and previewed the two books that would debut at Pride the next day. To this day we remain grateful for what happened in that bookstore that day. It was amazing to us, brothers everywhere excited about books and showing such support. I remember remarking to Lorenzo (Robertson) that if that I felt like I had died and gone to heaven and that this would never happen in Tampa- or so I thought.

The next morning we made our way to Howard University's Banneker Field and if I thought that Saturday was eye opening that Sunday would prove to be the "ah-ha" moment that put it all in to perspective. We arrived at the author's tent where we had assembled SGL authors from around the country for what we thought would be a huge success. Keith Boykin, Sharon Bridgforth, Michael Christopher, Dwayne Carter, G, Winton James, Lorenzo Robertson and myself prepared for what we thought would be a historical and yes, profitable day. It was historical to us anyway; for us it resembled what the Harlem Renaissance must have been like and having later watching Brother to Brother it was in many ways. People would come and chat and some would buy but most came to ogle at the buffed body of one of the authors; a hint that this mindset of the day

GOT PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 24

GOT PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

wasn't empowerment. Please know that I ain't hatin', that author sold a third of what was purchased that day. Between the seven of us only one hundred books were sold. To this day I am saddened by that. I guess as an author, I could say that was the foreshadowing of what was to come or as my grandmother would say, "it was the handwrittin' on the wall."



I think Ray Charles could have seen what would later become so clear to me once I rebounded from my disappointment of the day gain new perspective. Upon reflecting on the day, I noticed buffed body after buffed body and while it made for great eye candy and a testament to physical health, there was a tension in the air that went beyond the surface. It was a sexual tension as the brothers scoped each other out giving each other the eye as they nonchalantly made their way around the venue.

Later that evening over dinner I over heard some of the same brothas I had seen at Banneker quizzing locals about the "Blatino Party." Again, my naiveté took over and I thought that this an organization for black and Latin brothas. I would later learn that it was a sex party. That whole concept intrigued and saddened me at the same time. Make no mistake, I'm no prude and believe that if you're an adult, do what makes you happy as long as it's not harming you and you can live with you.

As time progressed I notice that what I had witnessed in my maiden voyage to DC became more the norm that the exception regardless of the efforts by Pride organizations all over the country. The empowerment workshops, the literary cafes, interfaith services or other non-party events never garner the crowd or attendance that the "parties" do.

Our contact information is published on numerous websites and publications because of our Pride involvement and without fail, people coming to the city will call and ask "where are the clubs, the bathhouses, the bookstores.." but never call and ask for the all-affirming church, the coffeehouse, the men's organization or a good restaurant.

We have been so conditioned to think that the "sexual" in homosexual defines who we are that we forget that it goes far beyond "sexual preference" and really is about "sexual Orientation." We've bought into the stereotypes of media and forgotten who we really are. It's all about the "sex" and the "boyz."

As a pride organizer it's very frustrating to plan events that will empower a generation both seasoned and neophyte and have it poorly attended or not attended at all. Prides around the country are faced with the dilemma when planning. While it's our intent to have a well-rounded event with empowerment and entertainment, it's a struggle to not succumb to the mindset "just plan the parties and forget the rest because ain't nobody coming to the workshops!"

Pride must be true to it's name and be a catalyst for the enriching of lives , the enlightening of minds and the uplifting of souls. If one person is touched or a life is enlightened because he see other strong, stable men walking his same path but making more empowering decisions and doing well as a result- the trail is then blazed.

Don't get me wrong, there's absolutely nothing wrong with having fun, but what is there to be proud of when all that is on your mind is the sex. The celebration of who you are and whose you are is diminished by who had you and who had who. Again, not trying to be a prude here, or come across as the moral anything. But I hear the voices of Bayard, Baldwin, Lorde and Ellis asking themselves "how did it come to this? Is this what we fought so hard for?"

What have we done with their legacy? Are we so caught up in moment that we're willing to toss away a life time?

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JUNE 30TH-JULY 4TH
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top twenty
TOP 20
THINGS NOT TO DO AT PRIDE THIS YEAR

20— Don't have more than four people sharing one hotel room

19— Don't forget to tip the bartenders and strippers even if they're visually challenging

18— Don't come to the club if your not looking to have a good time

17— Don't forget to bathe and use deodorant before leaving to go to the club

16— Don't take up all the space on the dance floor

15— Don't expect a guy to buy you a drink just because you're cute

14— Don't bother the DJ with request

13— Don't expect to be on the guest list

12— Don't fight in the club

11— Don't use other people's credit cards

10— Don't give it up on the first night of a 3 day weekend, he'll wait "if" you're worth it

9— Don't expect to find a new boyfriend

8— Don't wear make up or contacts cause he may not recognized you in the morning

7— Don't wear last year's pride fashions

6— Don't tell people your a true top if you're not

5— Don't bring your old or current boyfriend

4— Don't bring six months amount of clothes for a three day weekend

3— Don't wear clothes 2 times smaller than your actual size

2— Don't bring an over night bag to the club

1— Don't get upset when you realize that you're not the only cute person at pride

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BLACK
Pride

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Tampa, Florida

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@ THE PROPHOUSE 1675 N. ELSTON AVE.
708.802.1705 www.railschi.net
10:30PM-4AM

SATURDAY JULY 2ND

LOFTWERKS PRESENTS: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ CLUB REUNION 811 W. LAKE ST.
9:30PM-3AM

SUNDAY JULY 3RD

OTDL PRESENTS: FREEDOM
HIP HOP & HOUSE PARTY
@ ZENTRA 923 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ SHEFFIELD)
(773)215-OTDL OTDL CHICAGO @AOL.COM
11PM-4AM

MONDAY JULY 4TH

TUT & CLUBHOUSE PRESENT: PRIDE 2005
SHOW & DANCE PARTY
HOST: OTIS MACK & Mz. RUFF N STUFF
@ CIRCUS 901 W. WEED ST.
(1 BLOCK S. OF NORTH AVE @ FREMONT)
(312)398-8960
10:00PM-4AM

CELEBRATE PRIDE
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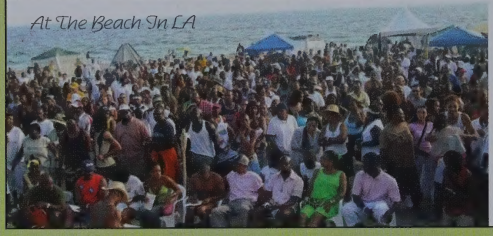
www.thewindycitypride.org
ICAGO PRIDE 2005
JUNE 30TH - JULY 4TH
JULY 4TH WEEKEND
the windy city pride
WCP 2005
Design by LMSDesign

2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

ifbp International Federation of Black Prides



The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

APRIL

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE

APRIL 21-24, 2005
www.phillyblackpride.org
610-284-1927
SEE PAGE 15 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

MAY

HOUSTON SPLASH*

MAY 4TH-9TH, 2005
www.houstonsplash.com

SIZZLE MIAMI*

MAY 26TH-30TH, 2005
www.sizzle2005.com
305-528-7495
SEE PAGE 18 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE

JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
773-562-6039
www.windycitypride.org
SEE PAGE 25 & 28 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

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lorenz762@aol.com
www.floridablackpride.net
SEE PAGE 27 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE

JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
WEB: www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
BlackOut Unlimited
(216) 937-2268
.blackoutunlimited.org

BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY

AUGUST 5 -7, 2005
78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

ifbp International Federation of Black Prides

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

ITLA IN THE LIFE ATLANTA CELEBRATING THE BLACK LESBIAN · GAY · BISEXUAL · TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2005
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
(404) 872-6410
info@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com
SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.

black gay PRIDE baltimore

OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

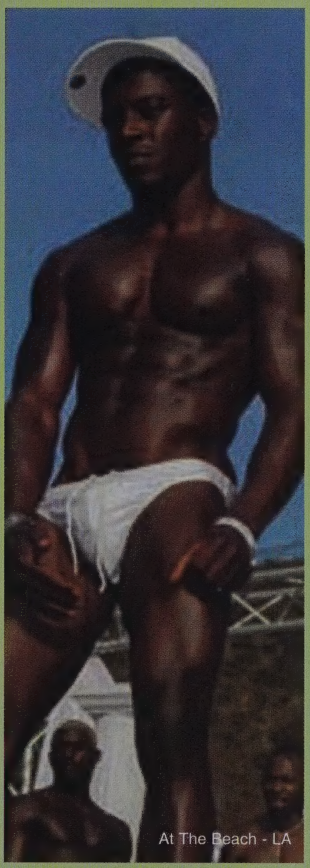
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

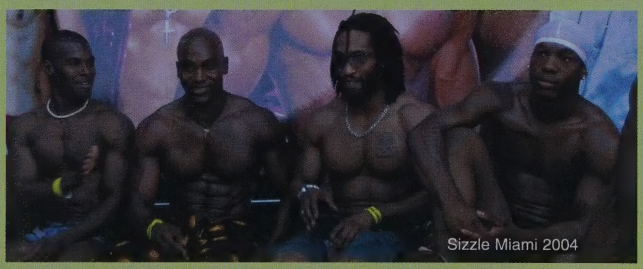
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
(615) 259-4866 Ext. 269
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005


At The Beach - LA


Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time

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THE LINE UP

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Thursdays TRADE THURSDAYS

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$5 all night. Doors Open @ 10PM - Restaurant Open

Fridays BLACKOUT FRIDAYS

::: Hot Male Dancers Every Friday Night
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Saturdays MILKSHAKE SATURDAYS

::: "My Milk Shake Bring All The Boys To The Bar"
Music By DJ JFK (Hip-Hop) & DJ Goose (House) Doors Open @ 10PM • Restaurant Open

Sundays CLUB 708 AFTER PARTY

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SPIRITUAL ROMANCE:

AN ADAM AND STEVE LOVE STORY

The following is the first of a three part essay series dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God.

Rarely are the words erection and God used in the same sentence. Why is this? If God invented sex, sexuality, sexual desire, sexual orientation, erections, and orgasms then why is there such timidity in discussing such topics openly during a Sunday school discussion or even during a sermon?

Why is there such an uncomfortable mood when speaking frankly and unabashedly about the joys and challenges of sex within the spiritual context in which we live and breathe especially within the black gay/lesbian community? Sex isn,t just for procreation and reproduction, but was also created as an intimate spiritual exchange between two people for their mutual enjoyment and understanding.

However, within the same-gender-loving community, there is still a staunch resistance to the idea of marrying our spirituality with our sexuality especially when it comes to our gay/lesbian dating and relationships.

Many still believe that „God won,t bless this mess‰ so why pray about our romantic relationships and the sexual expressions that come from it. There is still fear and shame from gays/lesbians in coming to God in complete honesty and asking for his guidance and advice in ordaining and blessing their same-gender-loving relationships.

It is this mental resistance that we must finally shed as we pursue healthy, monogamous, same-gender-loving relationships within a growing spiritual relationship with God and with each other. Hence, we as black gay/lesbians must now learn to pursue a „Spiritual Romance‰ with one another and not just a sexual one.

So what is a Spiritual Romance?? It is the fullest integration of one,s spiritualism and one,s romanticism. It is the dynamic merging and crystallization of one,s faith/belief system and one,s emotional and erotic connection with the opposite or same gender.

Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of meeting, greeting, dating, and committing to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God. And for the same-gender-loving community there is no difference. Spiritual Romance is the „how to‰ of how Adam and Steve and Ruth and Naomi, meet, greet, date, and commit to one another within a covenant relationship under the spiritual auspices of God.

There are three major steps we must take in order to enter into the realm of Spiritual Romance.

1. Focus FIRST on your relationship with God and the rest will follow

Let God define who you are, never allow anyone else to do it. Learn to submit to him, lean upon him, listen to him, and trust him for your every need and desire in life. Allow God to complete you and bestow upon you your purpose in life. Seek to discover and to live out your spiritual gifts and talents without shame or denial of who you are in the process.

Understand who you are in the entire universal plan. Meditate and pray often. Become a completed, whole, confident being before even thinking about engaging in a serious committed same-gender-loving relationship.

2. Pray asking God to direct and guide you to the same-gender-loving person that you are seeking.

Obviously this step is a very difficult one for many. As a result, too many people needlessly toil and suffer in their dating and relationships because they feel too guilty, ashamed, and unworthy to ask God for direction and romantic guidance concerning a person of the

same gender.

By clinging to their unworthiness state, many gay/lesbians truly miss out on an opportunity to be blessed by God. They forget the word says to step boldly to his throne and to also ask anything in Jesus, name. They forget the scripture that says to delight yourself in the Lord and he will bless you with the desires of your heart.

If you sincerely want a monogamous, loving, trusting, and spiritually grounded relationship with a person of the same gender, then you MUST pray to God, sharing with him exactly what your desires are.

You must pray before this person comes into your life, pray during the relationship both separately and together, and then continue to pray in the event the two of you should separate. Prayer should be a constant in all of our lives, and not reserved for special moments of need.

3. Opposites may attract but like personalities with a spiritually yoked person is a much wiser choice.

A relationship is a ying-yang, push-pull, complementary, thriving, and continued growth experience. As your mutual love for God grows, so does your relationship along with your ability to withstand the slings, arrows, darts, circumstances and events that will impact against your relationship and each other.

Being both spiritually yoked does not mean that you must believe and understand identically, but instead it means that the two of you hold very similar belief systems and approaches to life. When you have these things in common, growth occurs. When growth occurs, it will happen to both of you and not just to one of you. Further, the growth will occur in the same direction, binding the two of you together.

When people grow apart it is often because one has grown into a new dimension in their lives while the other one hasn,t. The change happens gradually over time and is often unnoticed. Gays/lesbians must take a special effort to do more spiritual screening and consideration before going forward into a relationship.

Internalized homophobia is a major hurdle to overcome. If one of you has overcome it spiritually and the other one still thinks homosexuality is a sin, then you must consider the strain and stress upon your relationship.

Finally, there are no guarantees that a spiritually yoked same-gender-loving couple will remain together. There are still many other factors that weigh heavily upon the success of your relationship. However, a spiritually yoked same-gender loving couple has a much better chance of staying together trough thick and thin over the course of time because of their like belief systems and approaches to life.

The next installment is titled „Spiritual Sex: Can you Make Love to Gospel Music?‰ Are you able to get your groove on to the melodic sounds of CeCe Winans, Smokey Norful and others? If not, why?

Herndon L. Davis is a Los Angeles based writer and author of *"Black, Gay & Christian"* and can be reached at http://blackgaychristian.com

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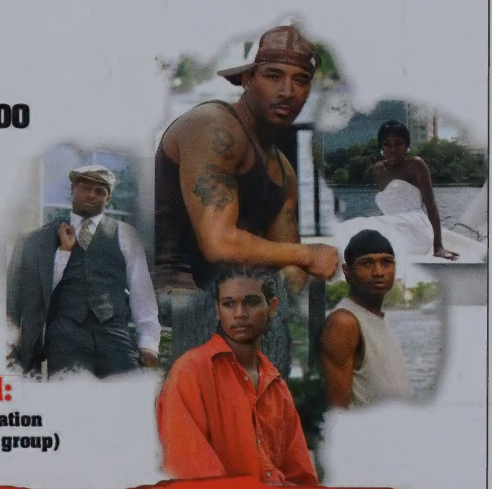

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Participation, Inclusion, Personal Best™

From 15-22 July 2006, Chicago will play host to the world and welcome thousands of athletes, spectators and cultural participants into our homes, our hearts and our city for the seventh quadrennial Gay Games Sports and Cultural Festival. The Games will feature 12,000 participants, competition in 30 sports, world-class athletes and artists, band and choral performances, nightly medal ceremonies, a week-long arts festival, parties, and spectacular opening and closing ceremonies featuring entertainment, pageantry, and the parade of participants from more than 70 countries.

The Gay Games are open to anyone. There are no qualifying events, no minimum or maximum requirements, and no mandatory affiliations. The Games are built on the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best, and promote a supportive environment, free from bigotry, where participants achieve success by their own measure. More than a tournament or cultural program, the Gay Games is a gathering of the international sports and arts community that changes lives, attitudes, and the very nature of competition.

In 1982, Dr. Tom Waddell, a 1968 Olympic decathlete, founded the Games primarily to showcase LGBT sports, describing it as "an experiment in global unity; an experiment in education; a vehicle for change." Since that time nearly 50,000 individuals of different races, genders, sexual orientations, national origin, physical and athletic abilities, health statuses, ages, religious and socio-economic backgrounds have come together from around the world in the spirit of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best. For 25 years, these values have helped to foster an international LGBT sports movement that builds bridges across borders, eradicates stereotypes, and truly changes the world. If you are a recreational or master athlete, an emerging or acclaimed artist, physically challenged, young or old, near or far, LGBT or heterosexual, you are invited to join us in Chicago for a week of friendship, open expression, and global community.

This will be a Gay Games for the ages. The sports and cultural components will be directed by experts in their fields, the tournaments and performances will be professionally organized, the competition and culture will be top flight, and the events will be held at world-class facilities sure to bring out your personal best. Most activities will be bundled into four sports villages to maximize convenience and to foster camaraderie and support among participants. The villages, easily accessible by public transportation, are built around some of Chicago's most stunning recreational, cultural, and historic centers.

When you enter Soldier Field on Sunday, 15 July 2006, and bask in the emotion of our Opening Ceremony, you will begin to understand the passion that drives the Gay Games. Throughout the next 8 days, whether you take home a Gold, Silver, Bronze or Participation Medal, or simply come to support your friends and colleagues in their own dreams, you will have memories of a lifetime, and mark your place in the 25-year legacy of the Gay Games. Visit http://www.gaygameschicago.org/ for more information on the games.

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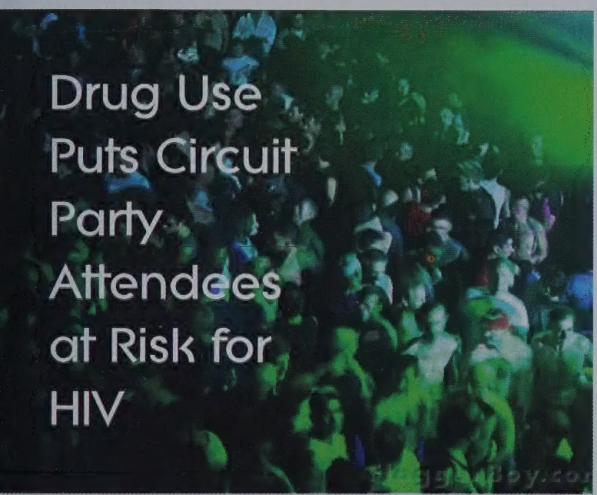
EVENTS WORKSHOPS SUPPORT

by jon garbo

Drug Use Puts Circuit Party Attendees at Risk for HIV



Rampant drug use and risky sex are commonplace at circuit parties and pride events, putting party-goers at substantial risk for HIV infection, according to a study of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, CA who attended these events. The study was first published in the American Journal of Public Health.

HIV and STD transmission among party attendees is "a real public health concern."Researchers from the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention surveyed gay and bisexual men age 18 and older who attended at least one circuit party in the previous year. Some respondents were recruited outside of gay venues (such as nightclubs, gyms, a gay pride event, sex clubs and other businesses). Others responded to flyers that advertised the study, or were referred by participants already enrolled. Almost 60 percent were between the ages of 25 and 34, and 97 percent identified as gay.

The study found that a high percent of the men used at least one psychoactive drug during the last circuit party they attended. Ecstasy was the most popular (75 percent had taken it), ketamine the second most popular (58 percent) and alcohol the third (56 percent). Around 7 percent of the men said they passed out, needed medical assistance or could not take care of themselves as a result of using drugs.

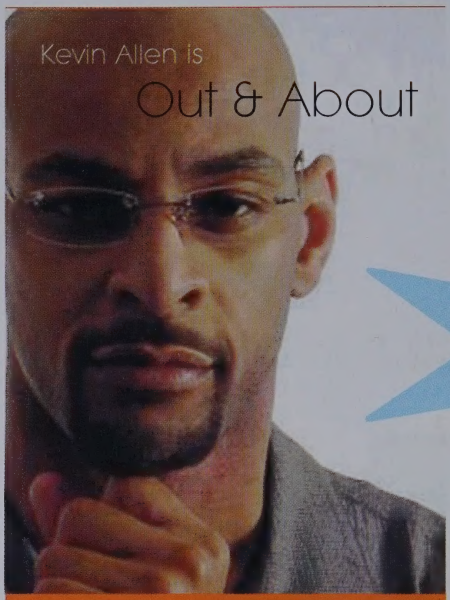
In addition, 29 percent of respondents reported having multiple sex partners (with whom they had oral or anal sex) during the event. Among these men, 24 percent reported unprotected anal sex with a partner whose HIV serostatus was different from theirs or unknown to them. Almost half of all respondents reported having a primary partner (defined as someone they lived with or seen a lot and to whom they felt a special emotional commitment), but among these men, 27 percent reported multiple sex partners (oral or anal) during the festivities. Overall, 17 percent of respondents said their most recent HIV test was positive and 83 percent said it was negative.

"As a whole, these findings suggest that a substantial drug culture permeates the circuit party environment, a drug culture that is distinct from broader communities of gay and bisexual men," the study authors wrote. In addition, drug use was found to increase sexual risk behavior, so much so that the study authors called the likelihood of HIV and STD transmission among party attendees "a real public health concern."

On an encouraging note, making condoms and safer sex and drug abuse information available to party-goers may help reduce their risk-taking behavior, according to the study. The researchers attended a circuit party where condoms and pamphlets were displayed. Over 60 percent of attendees noticed the condoms, and around one-third of these men helped themselves to some. In the case of the pamphlets, around one-third of the men took notice, of whom around 28 percent read the safer sex info and 53 percent read the drug abuse info.

"Condom visibility and accessibility are important factors in condom use," the study authors wrote. And in the case of drugs, "attendees need to be knowledgeable about multi-drug interactions and mixing psychoactive drugs with medical treatments [such as antiretrovirals]."

The researchers urged public health officials to reach out to circuit party attendees, and for organizers of these parties to implement risk-reduction strategies.



Kevin Allen is Out & About

Atlanta Magazine recent featured a story On the Down Low by Chandra R. Thomas. The article's main story centers around Kevin F. Allen a former down low African American male who's come to terms with his sexuality. Allen is the Vice President of Sales & Marketing of Senwot Nella Productions an independent film company located in Atlanta, Georgia, which he also co-founded.

Allen's production company is scheduled to release a documentary this month on the subject entitled *Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low*. The Screening tour is being launched in Atlanta, Georgia at the wonderful Woodruff Arts Center on Monday, February 28, 2005, at 7:00 PM.

Living On The Low is an in-depth documentary presenting real-life stories from men who have come clean from living that type of life and men who are still "living on the down low". Executive Producers Kevin F. Allen and Maurice Townes of Senwot Nella Productions and Ronda Noel of Noel Entertainment -- an independent film company based in Beverly Hills -- takes you deep into this guarded world and expose the hidden secrets, lies and denial, which run rampant among this chosen lifestyle. Watch these intriguing stories from men as they truthfully explain their manipulation and deception tactics towards their women/wives, their fears of exposure, and their struggle to stay hidden or come clean. Allen, hopefully leading by example, faces women of his past and candidly describes his experiences with women and men while living many years within the DL world. Watch DL secrets further unravel during real-life interviews from two "un-identified" men (i.e. a professional athlete and a married physician of twenty-one years) currently living on the DL and three men who have come clean from living this lifestyle. Journey with an Artist, Ijumo Hayward, who fled his home country Bermuda ten years ago, when his wife discovered through his renderings his hidden secret life and threatened to exposed him to his prominent family and business associates. The documentary concludes with an intimate group of women, hosted by Journalist Chandra R. Thomas of Atlanta Magazine, expressing their diverse views, some sharing their real-life experiences of being misled, feelings of frustration and violation, failed expectations, and finally accepting the fact that some men will continue to choose to live a "down low" lifestyle. Watch as these women obtain all of the answers to their burning DL questions from former DL men and two un-identified current DL men. The women go toe-to-toe with the DL men and it gets pretty heated.

Since Kevin is no longer living this double life and hurting others he feels liberated and at peace with himself. Allen says he fought with business partner and best friend Maurice Townes and manger Ronda Noel regarding exposing his former down low lifestyle to the world. He continues, "'I didn't want to be viewed as one of those men that's jumping on the sensationalism of the down low craze. When my business partners pointed out to me the legitimate reasons for developing this project/piece, we had to move forward with it.' Ronda, a heterosexual, married mother of three, who's a Christian, explained to us, '-- this DL thing is everyone's problem. It needs to be addressed correctly.' She continued to voice concerns about her children and the preservation of the younger generation. Ronda continued, 'we need to nip this in the bud now and not leave yet another issue for our children to resolve.' Maurice, who's an openly gay Black man, loved the idea because it provided him with another avenue to drive his nagging message of the behavior of DL men to the forefront."

Never in Allen's wildest dreams did he expect his soap opera, The CLOSET, to give birth to the documentary Living On The Low: Exploring The Lives Of Men Living On The Down Low. The CLOSET was created to display positive images of the gay and lesbian community and to expose the hidden, deceitful and manipulative down low lifestyle that's running rampant among men/women of all races. Kevin concludes by stating, "I just want people who are on the down low to see our products, look within themselves and analyze the way they are living their lives."

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Up Close With

Stanly Bennet Clay

Photo credit: Andre LaVelle

Story By: Dwight Powell
Interview By: Justin Hall

In Search Of Pretty Young Black Men

A veteran in the publishing and entertainment field, Stanley Bennett Clay is no stranger to the Black Gay Community. Probably best know for his magnificent magazine SBC, published out of Los Angeles, Stanley is an icon admired and idolized for decades. Born in Chicago, Illinois Clay has been a Los Angeles resident since 1963.

Over the years Clay has gained various awards and distinctions. Among them, Clay received 3 NAACP Theatre Awards and 3 Drama-logue Awards for writing, directing and co-producing the stage play *Ritual*. Also, he is the first recipient of the African American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award (1990) and received Genre magazine's 1993 Role Model to the Gay Community's Lifeguard Award.

Clay produced on stage the GLAAD, LA. Weekly, LA. Times and NAACP Award-winning musical *Children of the Night* and the world premiere of James Graham Bronson's *Willie & Esther*. That production received 2 LA. Weekly Awards---Best Play and Best Ensemble Performance.

Clay also wrote, produced, directed and composed *Street Nativity* (a musical commissioned by the National Council of Negro Women for the Black Family Reunion Festival), wrote, produced and directed the play *Lovers*, directed the west coast productions of Jonin' (Drama-logue Award/Direction) and *The First Breeze of Summer* (for which he also wrote the musical score), produced and starred in (opposite BerNadette Stanis) Anna

Lucasta (for which he received the NAACP Best Actor Image Award), and produced, directed and wrote the musical score for such original stage shows as *Nobody Likes Ugly* and *Don't Ask!*

He is the author of the novels *Diva (Holloway House)* and *In Search of Pretty Young Men* (Simon & Schuster/Atria Books). The latter was just awarded The N.Y. Hotep Society Book Award for Best Gay Novel. He is the recipient of the International Black Writers of America's highest honor, The Edna Crutchfield Founder's Literary Achievement Award "In recognition of outstanding work as writer, publisher, producer and director of the written word."

Former Editor-In-Chief of Black Beat magazine and American Correspondent for London's Blues and Soul magazine, Clay published and edited SBC magazine for 10 years, at the time the most widely distributed periodical for the black gay and lesbian community.

Mr. Clay's new musical, *Looking For God*, premiered at the Celebrity Centre Garden Pavilion in Los Angeles on May 11th of 2004 and the stage version of *Why Do Fools Fall In Love*, for which he co-wrote the music and lyrics, is slated for a Broadway run during the fall 2006 season..

Clikque Magazine's associate, Justin Hall recent spoke with Clay and provided us with this intimate one on one interview.

[Justin] I have known Stanley Bennett Clay from afar, and as I came into my own homosexuality in the 90s there was a magazine, SBC, which let me know that there were others like me.

SBC is no longer in production, but clearly from reading this article thus far, you'll agree that Mr. Clay is definitely still producing

At the end of my conversation I came away with the feeling or rather the knowledge that Mr. Clay is a passionate man who loves his life and Black men.

Let's glance over some of the sound bites from our recent phone interview.

[Justin] What or who adds to the happiness of Stanley Bennett Clay?

[Clay] Being myself. Loving self and embracing the totality of me. Loving my Blackness, me being left-handed living in a right-handed world, my Gayness and me being an artist. What others may see as a weakness I see it or them as a strength.

I am a 55-year-old Black Gay Man with a 22-year old boyfriend and to those people who have issues with that I say, Fuck em and feed em beans,

I was openly gay before Stonewall.

I appreciate and am grateful to those individuals who say that I am talented. I write music, direct films, I had a wonderful acting career, and it continues. I do not take these gifts for granted."

[Justin] What is your opinion on the current state of Black Gay Men?

[Clay] I find it fascinating and depressing.

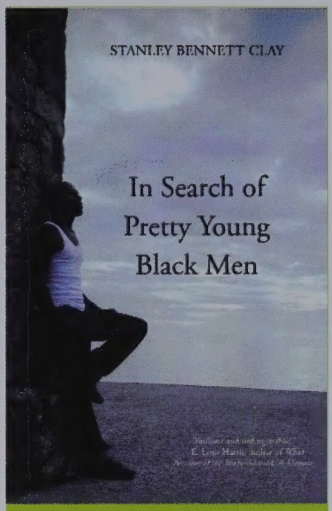
I recall fondly the freeness of the 60s and 70s and how the effects of HIV/AIDS has offset that freedom, at least sexually.

A man is in essence a man. It is not limited to being or defining yourself as a thug, being on the DL, feeling that you are a walking dick, fuck 24/7, having 20 babies, not able to hug another man, not being able to cry.

A man to me as I consider myself is one who is able to cry, able to say that I love another man. It is so many things.

It is about being a soft man or a trans man and embracing

CLAY CONTINUES ON PAGE 44



IN SEARCH OF PRETTY YOUNG BLACK MEN is the tale of Dorian Moore, a mysterious and seductive young man who provides comfort to the moneyed, the neglected, the lost, and the lonely men and women in an elegant black hilltop community in Southern California.

Among the women is Maggie Lester-Allegro, who, dissillusioned by a loveless marriage, finds support in her small circle of women friends and sexual healing in Dorian's arms.

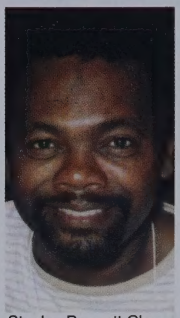
Maggie's husband, Lamont, seeks sexual solace outside of their trophy marriage as well. He lives in the shadow of his larger-than-life father, a member of the Baldwin Hills gentry, and under the weight of secrets and lies that threaten to tumble the walls of his carefully guarded life and standing among the elite.

This novel is a poetically rendered, provocative, and revealing tale that challenges every notion of what we believe equals success, prestige, and, most of all, love.

(Simon & Schuster/Atria Books)

CLAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

those qualities about you." "The Silent Sissies of the Pew is a term I call some men who sit in church while their preacher demonizes their sexuality all the while asking for money that they put in the collection plate.



Stanley Bennett Clay

[Justin] Mr. Clay is there Hope?

[Clay] Yes, there is hope, as this too shall pass.

[Justin] Mr. Clay loves Black people and especially the Black man. When talking with him as our phone conversation exceeded 15 minutes (lol) you hear the passion in his voice of not just loving his brothers but also loving himself as he too is a Black Man.

[Clay] Black people are marvelous. From slavery to present we don,t just achieve, we over-achieve.

[Justin] He does say that we as a community tend to be much harder on ourselves than that of others not of our race. Mr. Clay wants each of us to stand in front of a mirror naked and behold the beauty that stands before you.

[Clay] We are so pretty that it's stupid.

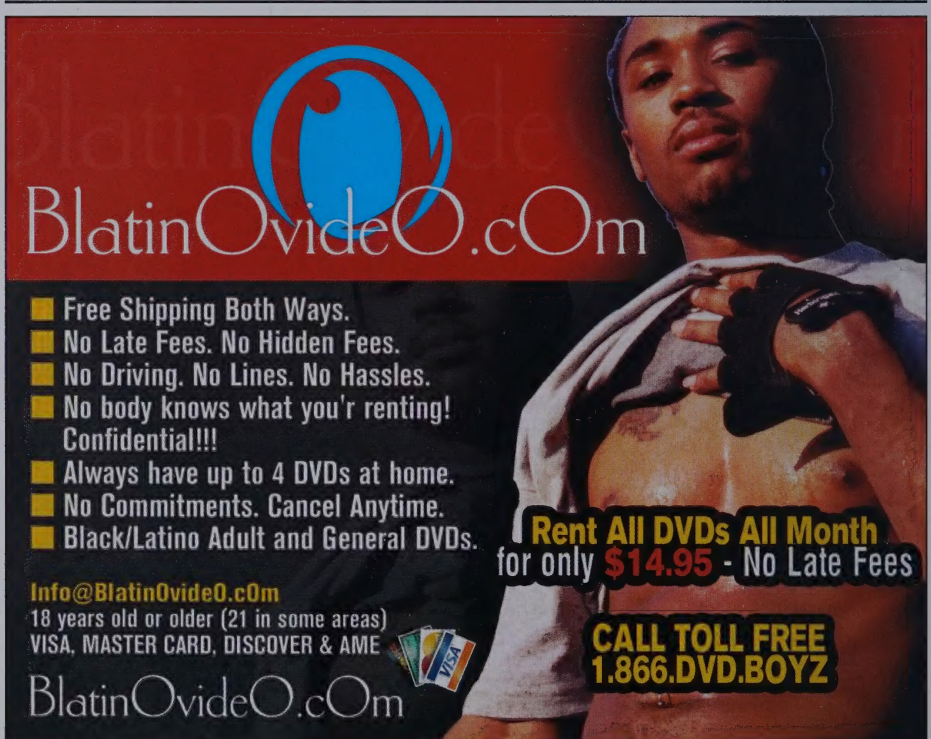
[Justin] Mr. Clay says that for too long we as Black Gay Men have fallen into the myth that gay is equated to only those who are white, which as many of us know for sure is false. We are Black Gay Men who love other Men. Mr. Clays says that those in power intentionally keep people ignorant as you are then able to control them. Mr. Clays message to Black Gay Men:

[Clay] Black Gay Men keep in mind that there are a lot of people who are not going to like you be you Black and/or Gay and I encourage you to not internalize that and feel that you are a bad person as you are not. If someone does not like you on the basis that you are a Black Gay Man say what I say, fuck em and feed em beans.

[Justin] What do you know for sure. What resonates for you?

[Clay] I know for sure that I am living a privileged and blessed life. In spite of the challenges that I have been and continue to live in this skin, think these thoughts, and be able to express myself as I do, is really a good thing. I like being Stanley Bennett Clay

A D V E R T I S E M E N T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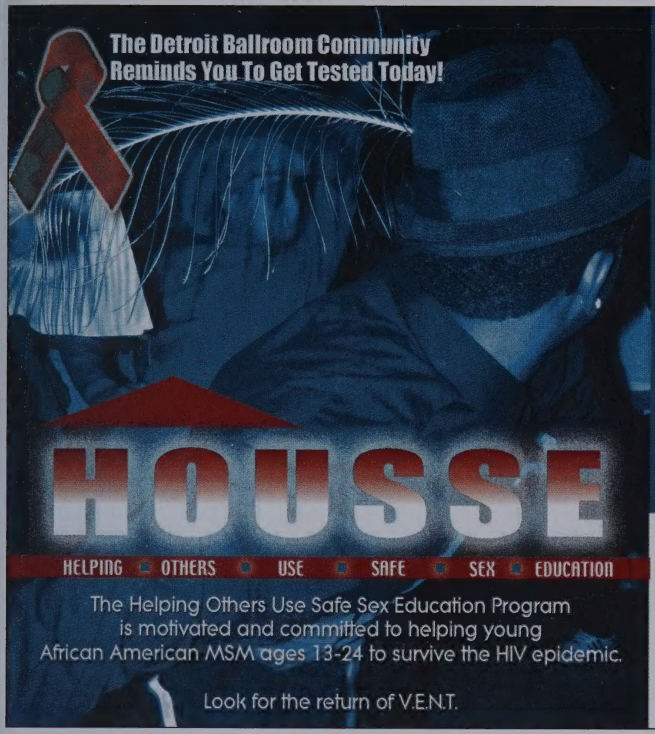
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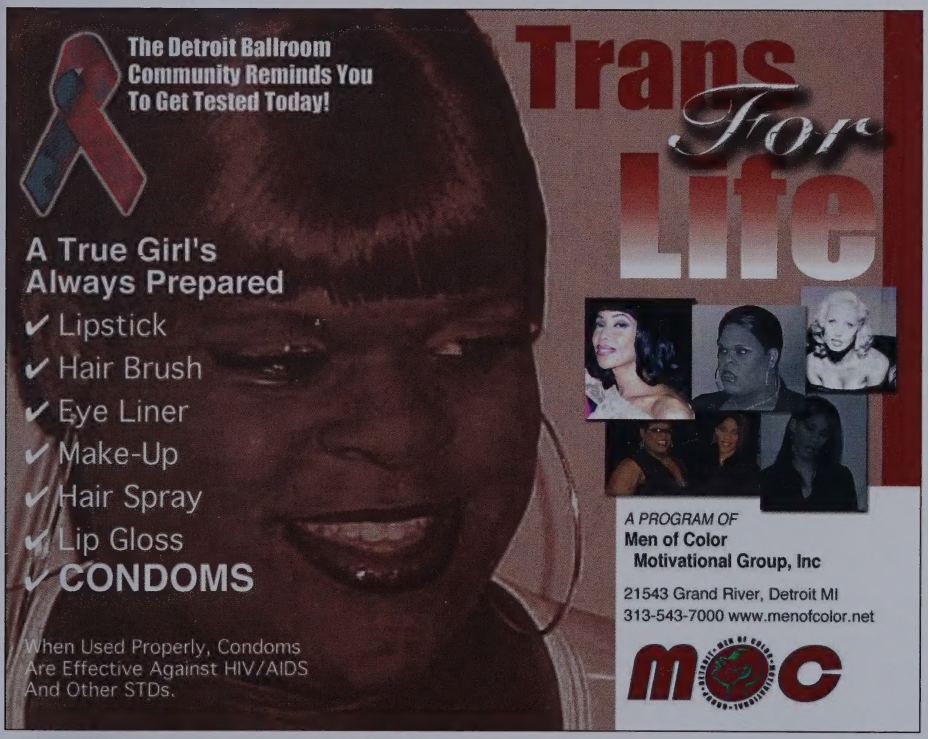


Exploring The World Behind The Lens of

Jerry Boles

Jerry Boles started in front of the camera, and on stage during the era when Beverly Johnson, Renault White and Ben Wilson were at the helm of their career, Grace Jones was just beginning to gain popularity in the underground music market. Back then it was hard for Jerry because he was from the projects in the Southside of Chicago, For a short time Jerry was in a street gang, but soon found his way in pursuit of his calling....behind the camera.

He got his first exposure in the fashion while working at the Conrad Hilton in 1979. (Now called the Chicago Hilton and Towers). Jerry soon moved from Chicago to Los Angeles, California and became extremely intrigue with the fashion industry. Working at the Hilton and living in LA. opened his eyes to a lot of things, Jerry had the opportunities to be in the company of some of the richest people in the world and walk down some of the most famous streets neighborhoods during that period. All of this changed his perception on life. Jerry soon realized that although he and his family once lived ion welfare in the projects of Chicago, with dedication, commitment and hard work he would not have to live in poverty again.

This drive and determination took Jerry back to Chicago where he got involved in the Fashion Industry with Tony Mitchell. Tony took Jerry in and schooled him about life, (Gay life in particularly) fashion, designing and photography. Tony owned a beauty salon, modeling school, hosted his own T.V. Show and Radio Show. All of the Top Black Radio Stations and Promoters were asking us to do Fashion Shows almost three and four nights a week, This put Jerry right in the mist of the Fashion and Entertainment Industry. For several years that is all he did; Eat, sleep fashion, designing, fashion shows, voiceovers,...you named it, he had his hands in it.

Eventually, Jerry started his own Production Company and began putting on shows an working with Models in Chicago, Spending a lot of time helping models get their portfolio together, Jerry interviewed some of the top fashion photographers in the city. "One of the Model s introduce me to a photographer from Rome Italy. Her Name was Antonella Pizzoli and

BOLES CONTINUES ON PAGE 48

Jerry Boles Photography

BOLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

we became friends and I asked her to teach me how to photograph," Recalls Jerry. He was honored to be working with Antonella, because she was one of the world's top photographer and well respected. Her work was on all of sorts of magazine covers and billboards.

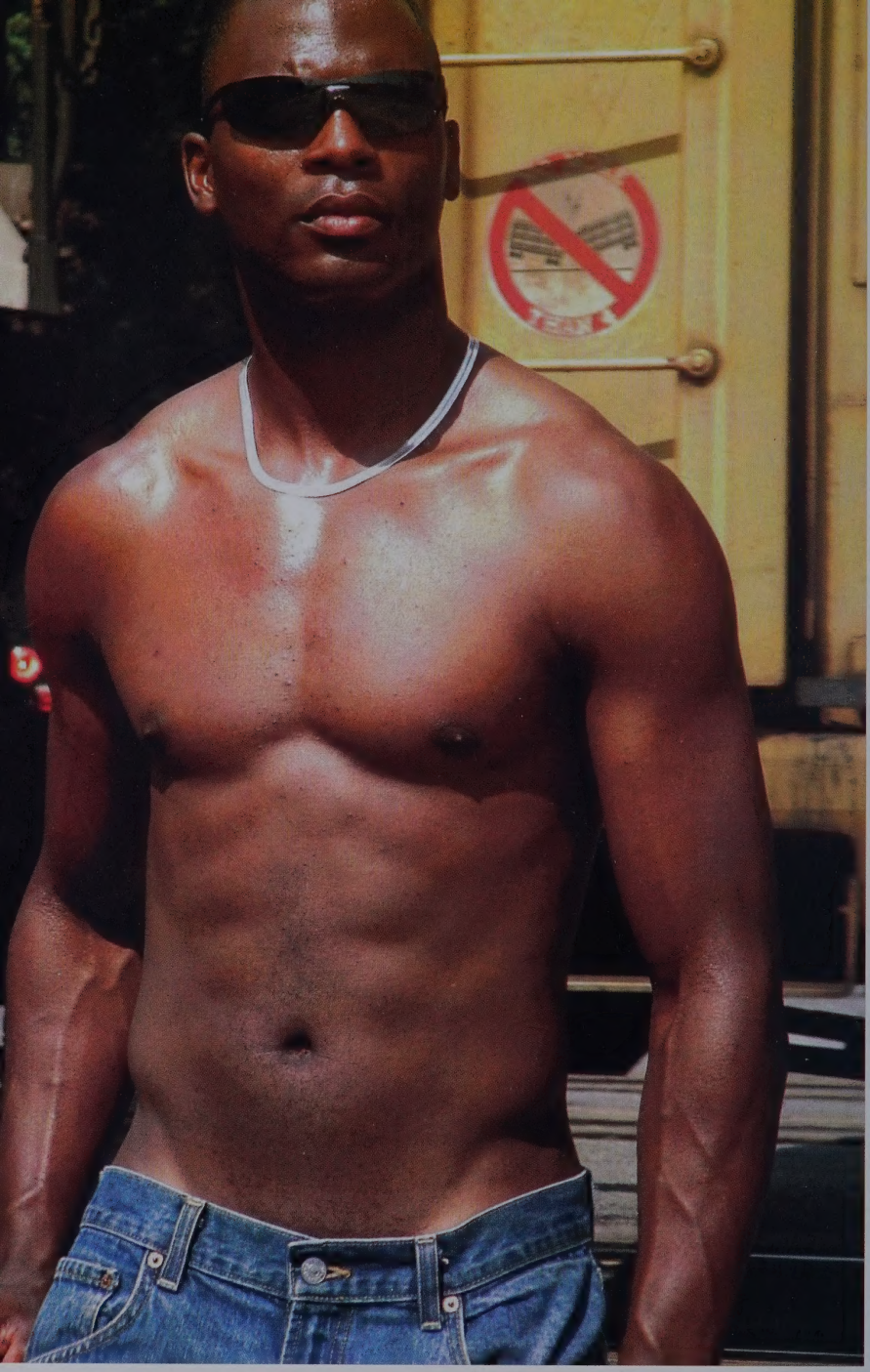
Clikque recently caught-up with Jerry Boles in Atlanta, his current home for the past 4 years. Here are some moments he shared with us;

My first success story was a model I discovered waling down State Street In Chicago, her name was Ava, and she was picked a finalist in the "FACE of 80 Contest " For the Ford Modeling Agency of New York. My second discovery was a messenger named Rich Kirk, and he had this "James Dean" look. He was instantly grabbed up by a top agency in Chicago. I think the one that really got me to start thing about pursuing photography professionally was a young man that walked into office one-day looking like "Clark Kent" and I sent him to one of my photographers, he was instantly swept up by one of the agency in Chicago. He first advertisement was for Marshall Field. I was so excited by all of the talent I was meeting off the streets. Talents whose careers had taken off in such a short period of time.

Sidetracked by my personal relationship and other stuff I became less intrigued with photography. After the person whom I considered to be my life-partner walked out of my life....I was devastated...he was the key to keeping me going. I dropped out of sight for a while and would only show up at a fashion show here and there.....and maybe do a few shoots but I was not pursuing my career as much as I needed to. I took on another career as an armed security officer with special assignments that almost made me decided a pursue a career as a law enforcement officer. After 64 arrest, court cases, raids and being shot at a few times. I decided that this was not a life choice for me. So, I decided to go back to something I love doing and I didn't have to wear 30-45lb of gear for 8-11 hours per day.

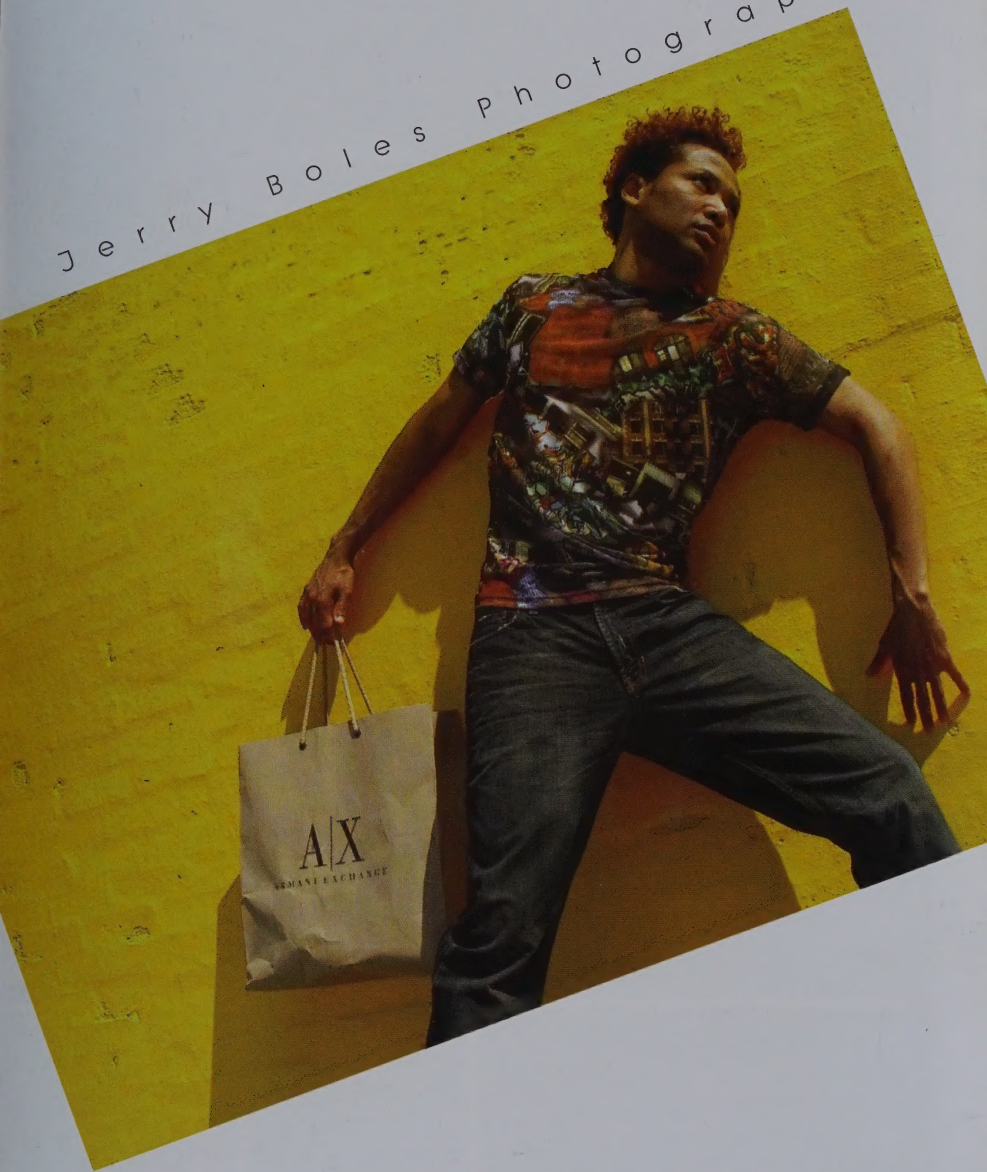
In 1999 I visited Atlanta where I met a young man that introduces me to the Internet. He showed me how to put my work online and within a few months I had editors and publishers contact me about previewing my photography in their magazines, advertisement, etc. I was actually overwhelmed by the response from people I have never met. I was so excited when Clikque Magazine accepted one of my models in their ad campaign for the first Tampa Jamz 2000. This was a great opportunity for the both of us during that period. I met another photographer named Rondu; I was so fascinated by her work, the models...stunning. I wondered to myself, how she was able to find those types of models. She told me to head South and I started working on plans to re-locate to Atlanta. Today, I utilize the Internet tremendously because it allows me to connect on a global scale.

Since relocating to Atlanta, in 2001 Jerry Boles work has been viewed in 40 countries worldwide, countless of magazines advertisements and promotional material. He has a lot of offers on table and is evaluating each one of them very carefully. With Jerry's parting words, he has this to say: "I want to make sure that each offer is a benefit for the models and myself. I am very particular when it comes to selecting models to be in front of my cameras. That is hard to explain...but I can tell you this much....photography is a true passion....it allows me to LIVE."



Jerry Boles Photography

Jerry Boles Photography



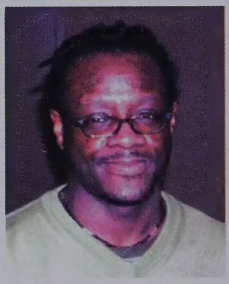
International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta

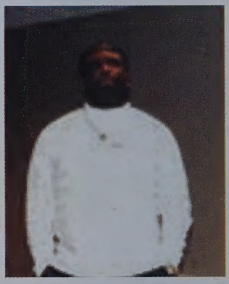
Earl Fowlkes

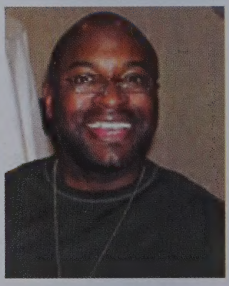
IFBP kicks off 2005 with annual conference

IFBP got off to a great start in 2005 with the annual IFBP Conference. The event took place the latter part of January in Atlanta, GA. Attendees of the conference included members of the IFBP Executive, Membership and Development committees.

The primary focus of 2005's conference was the current organizational restructure of IFBP and future growth of the federation. A Board of Directors was established as part of the restructure and three new cities added to the federation's membership -- San Diego, Dallas, and Tampa Bay (Central Florida). In addition, former DC Black Pride President Earl Fowlkes was named IFBP President/CEO.

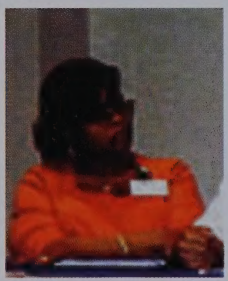






International Federation Of Black Prides Conference -Atlanta

Above Left to right:
Julian High, HRC;
Earl Fowlkes,IFBP;
Donna Payne, HRC;
Michael Slaughter, ITLA
Dr. G. Roberts, CDC.
Photo by Johnny Lee Jenkins



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Website: www.legendary708.com

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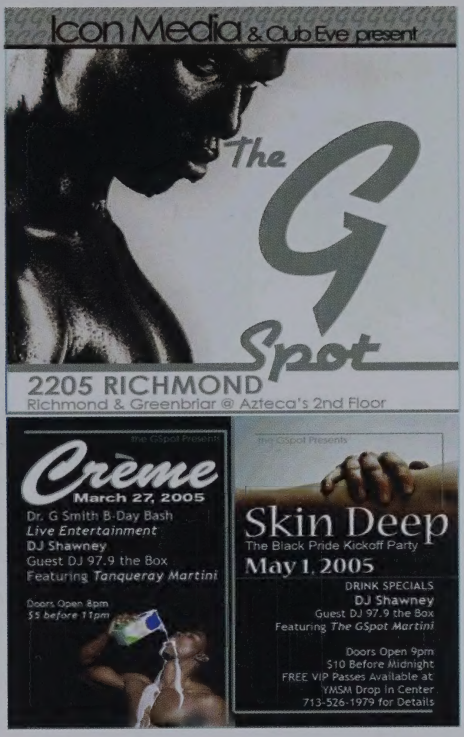
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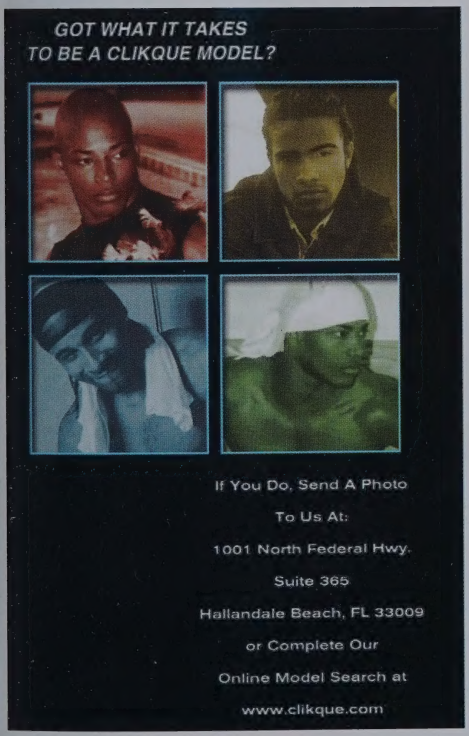
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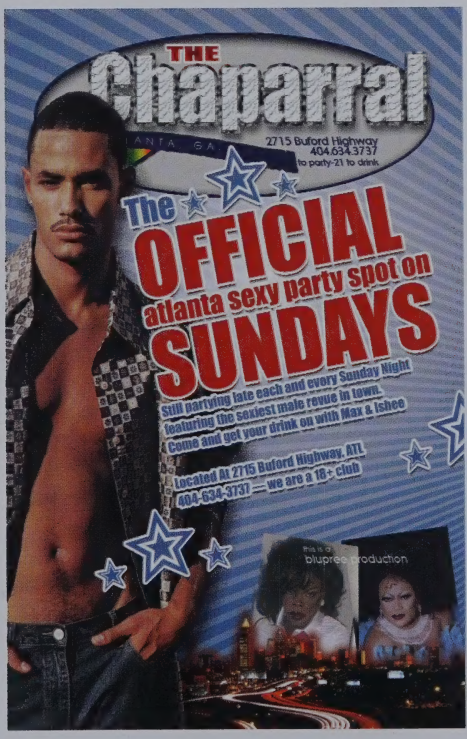
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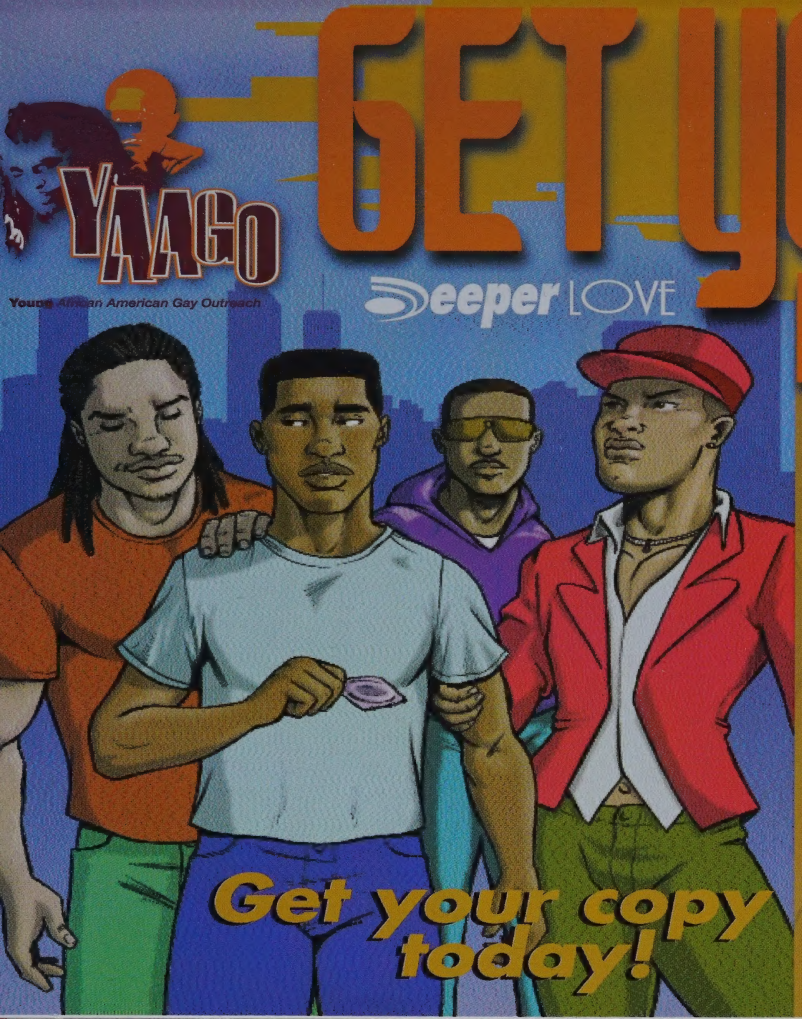

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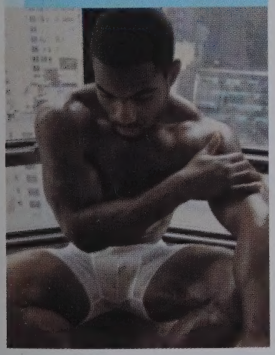
Exploring The SUPER BUG

Drug Resistant Strain of HIV Identified in New York

Q&A

This past February, New York City health officials reported that a local gay man in his mid-40s had recently been infected with multidrug-resistant HIV and progressed rapidly to AIDS. The man was first diagnosed with HIV this past December and is believed to have been infected between 2 and 20 months before experiencing symptoms of AIDS, including a steep drop in CD4 cells and a high viral load. It has also been reported that he has had a history of unprotected anal sex with multiple male partners while using crystal methamphetamine (crystal meth, speed).

Lab tests showed that the dominant viral strain in his body was a virulent form that was resistant to the first three antiretroviral drug classes: nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), and protease inhibitors (PIs). However, the man was reportedly responsive to the fusion inhibitor T-20 (enfuvirtide, Fuzeon).



Is this case really new?

Multi-drug-resistant strains of HIV are not new. Neither is rapid progression from HIV infection to clinical AIDS diagnosis–in some cases, within months–for some individuals. What is new about this case is the combination of drug resistance in a previously untreated person and such rapid progression to AIDS (in this case, CD4 counts below 100 cells/mm3 for more than a month). New York City health officials say that such quick progression to AIDS has not been seen before in a person with HIV resistant to three antiretroviral drug classes. This man's virus also appears to be a virulent, not weakened, form of virus that is associated with rapid disease progression. It would be premature, however, to draw sweeping assumptions or conclusions based on this limited information. Much more needs to be learned in the coming weeks about this case and its implications.

Has such rapid progression from HIV infection to AIDS diagnosis been seen before?

According to experts, the average time between HIV infection and AIDS diagnosis is 10 years or longer. However, this timeframe varies. Some people progress to AIDS more quickly than others due to their own susceptibility, not necessarily because of a new "supervirus." Crystal meth use and others factors specific to the individual have been mentioned as potentially affecting his progression to AIDS, but details about his medical history have not been fully released.

How concerned should I be about being infected with such a strain of the virus?

Certainly, the potential to become infected with drug-resistant virus is real and has been seen not just in this case but in other cases around the country. Drug-resistant HIV is a problem because treatment options become limited when the virus mutates and doesn't respond to multiple drugs and entire drug classes. For those who are already HIV positive, there is a small but potential risk of becoming reinfected with a different viral strain. But this one case in New York doesn't prove that

there is a "supervirus" spreading in the community. More questions still need to be answered.

What can I do to protect myself from drug resistant HIV?

HIV infection, whether drug-resistant or not, can be prevented. For those who are sexually active, standard safer sex practices – in particular regular use of condoms when engaging in higher-risk sexual practices and knowing your HIV status and the HIV status of your partner – are known to be effective tools in reducing the risk of HIV transmission.

For injection drug users it is safest to use a new sterile syringe and equipment (including cotton, filters, caps, spoons, cookers, and alcohol swabs) every time you inject. You can obtain new syringes at needle exchange sites or pharmacies in some locations.

For more information about risk behavior, HIV testing, and needle exchange locations, call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS or visit www.aidshotline.org

Can I be tested for drug resistance?

Yes. Two different tests, known as genotypic and phenotypic tests, can be used by clinicians to check for drug-resistant HIV. For more information about these tests, you can contact your physician or call Project Inform's National Hotline at 1-800-822-7422 or visit www.projectinform.org

If I use crystal meth, am I more likely to get HIV or AIDS?

The New York case does not show a direct link between crystal meth use and the progression to AIDS. However, health providers are concerned that crystal meth use is contributing to new HIV infections by lowering sexual inhibitions and impairing judgment. It is also believed that crystal meth may negatively impact the body's immune system. Injecting speed, particularly when sharing needles, carries the additional risk of HIV and hepatitis transmission.

How can I learn more about preventing HIV and getting tested?

Call the California HIV/AIDS Hotline at 1-800-367-AIDS or visit www.aidshotline.org

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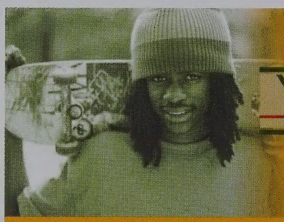

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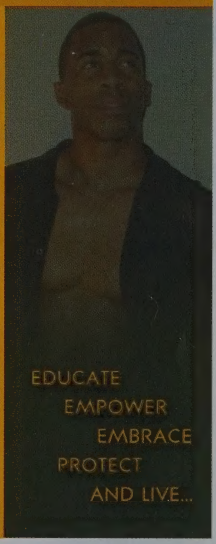

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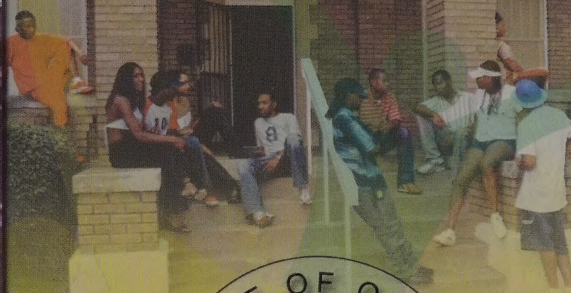

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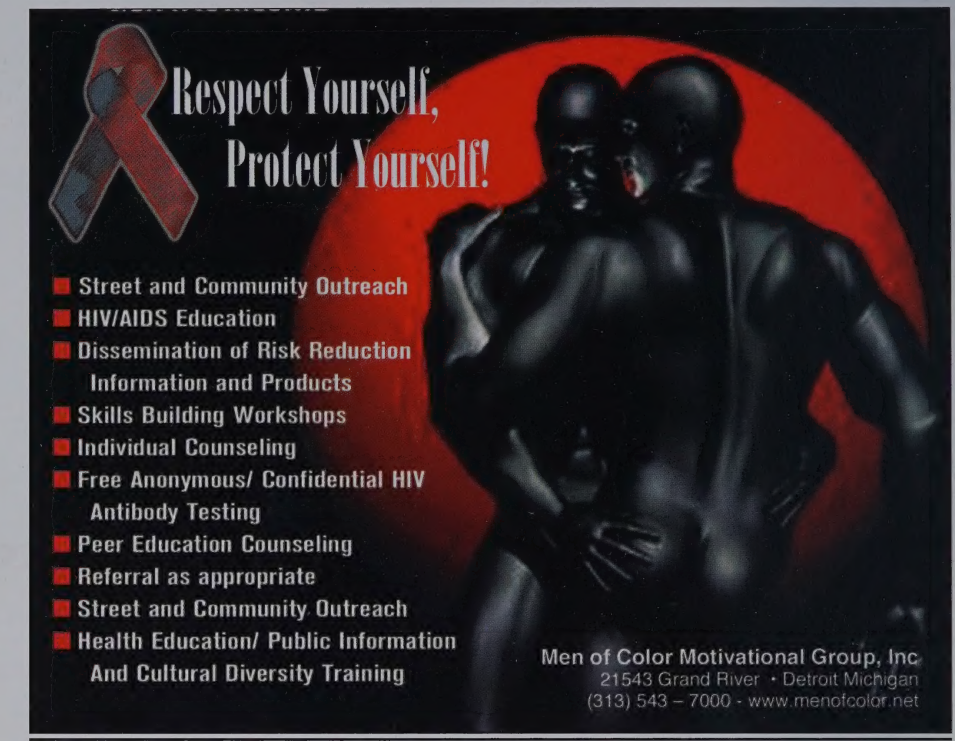
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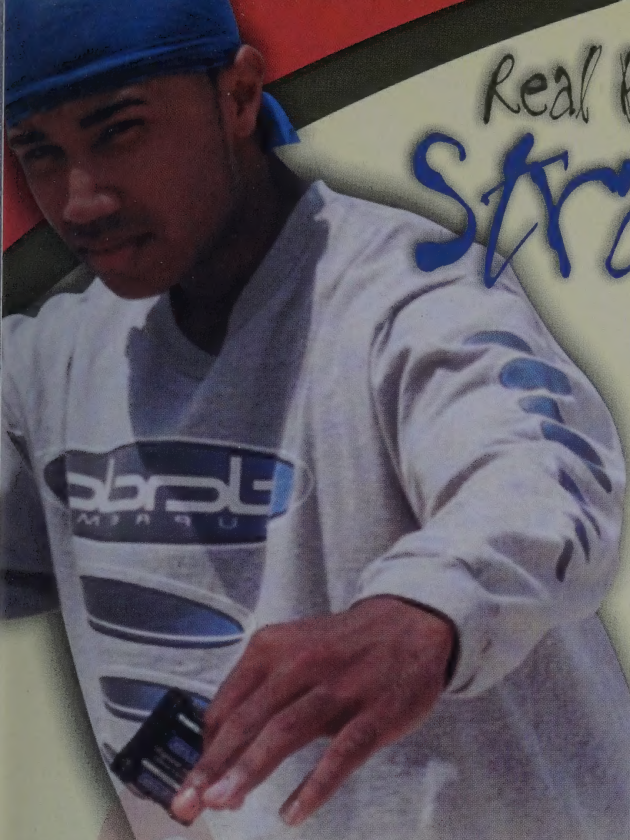

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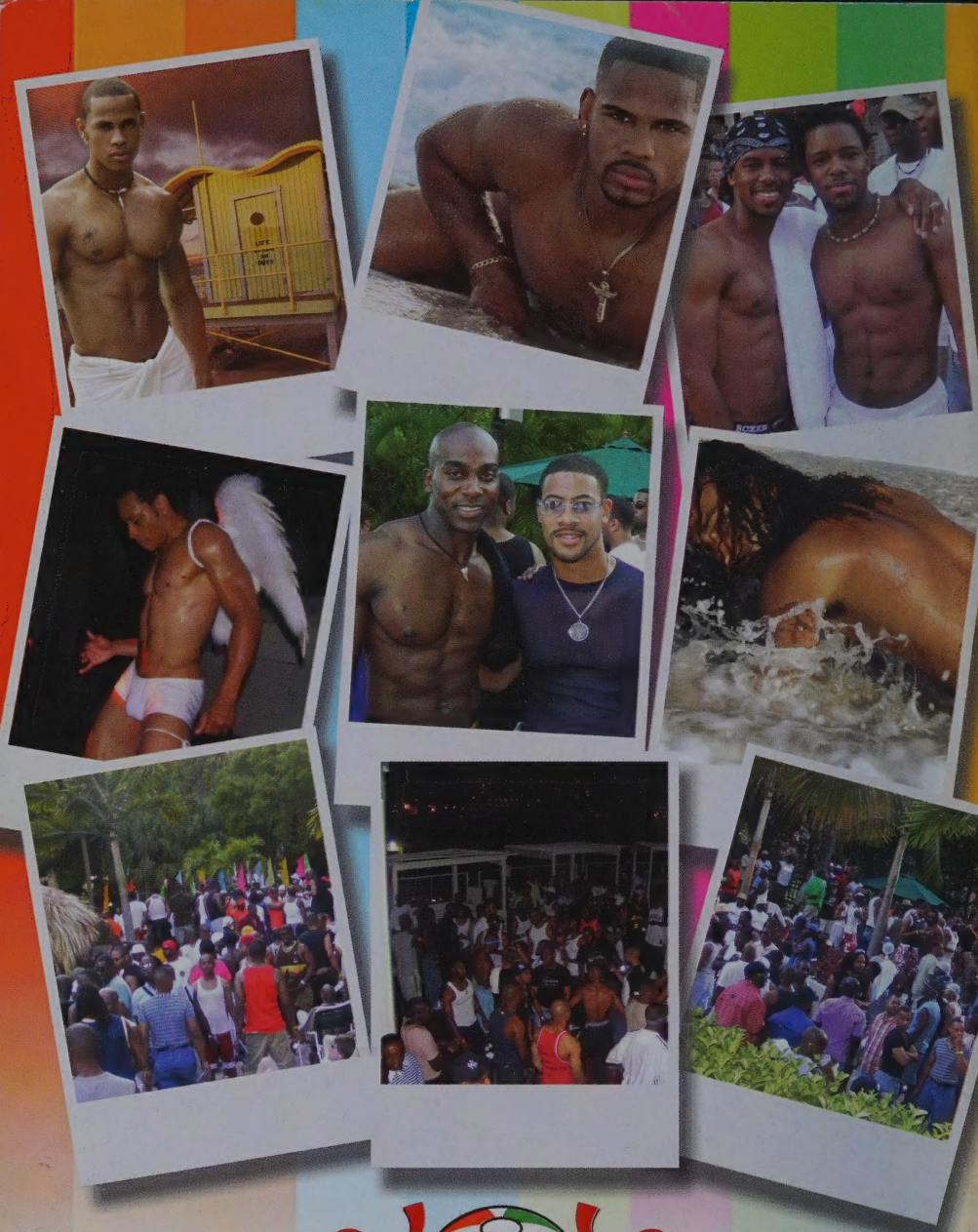

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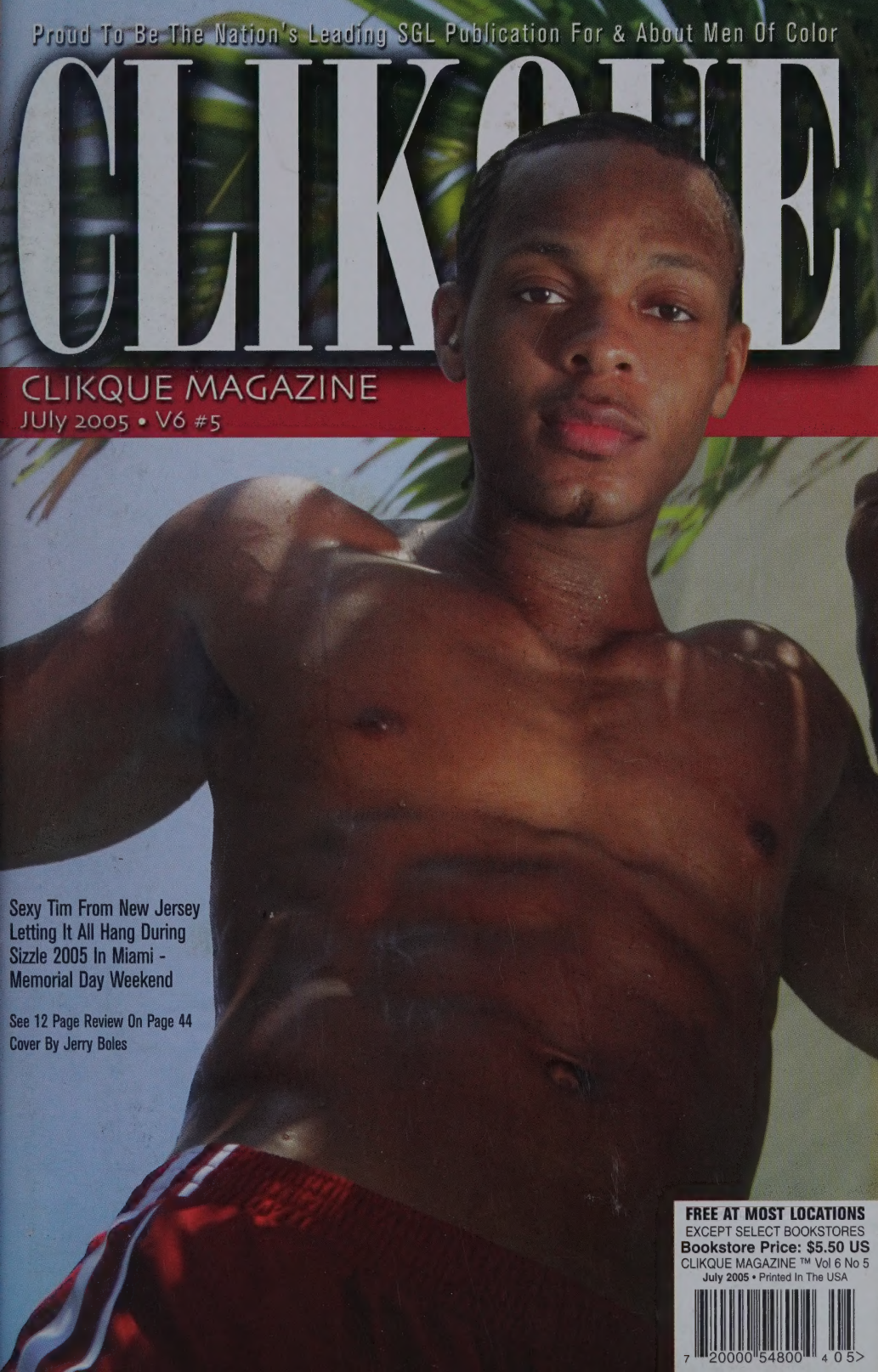
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – MIAMI, FLORIDA

Thursday May 26 - Monday May 30, 2005 (See Page 18 Inside)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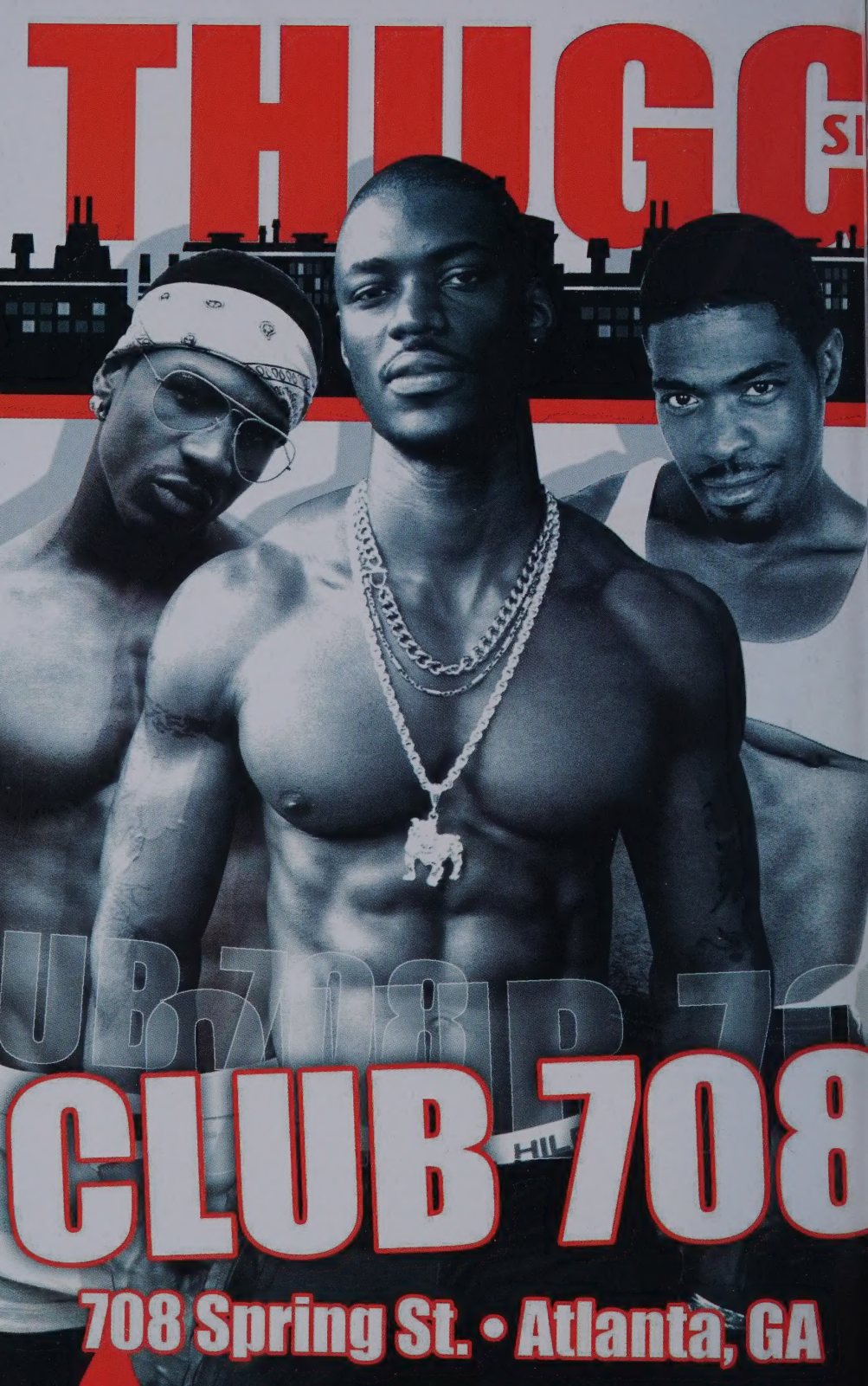
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9pm - 7am

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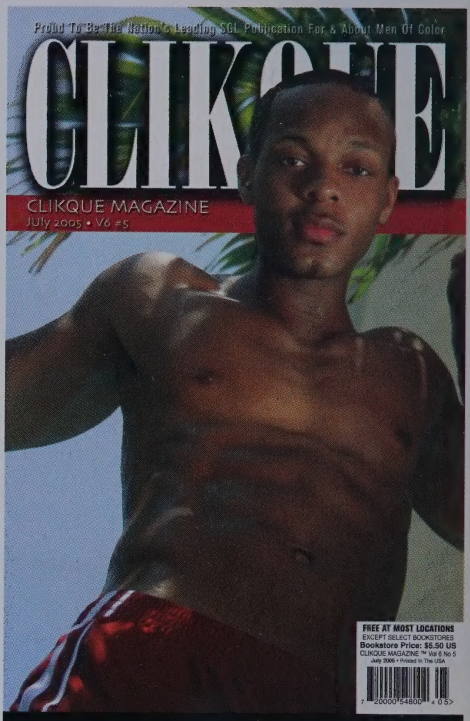
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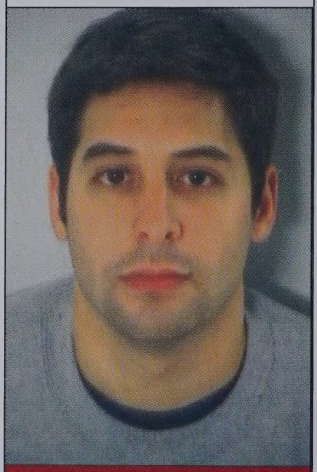
BY DYANA BAGBY

HIV-positive Georgia man jailed until trial Judge revokes bond over additional charges of reckless conduct

An HIV-positive Georgia man facing three felony criminal charges for allegedly engaging in consensual sex with three men without disclosing his HIV status had his bond revoked during a brief hearing.



Gary Wayne Carriker faces three felony charges of reckless conduct for allegedly having consensual sex with three men and not telling them he was HIV-positive.

Gary Wayne Carriker, 26, of Fayetteville was immediately taken into custody after the 30-minute hearing in Fayette County Superior Court. He is to remain jailed until his trial there, which could take place in September. Fayette County is about 30 miles south of Atlanta.

Carriker's attorney, George Sparrow, asked Superior Court Judge Johnnie Caldwell to require Carriker to be abstinent from sex pending the criminal trial rather than be jailed, which would match the terms of his bond in Fulton County, where the other two cases are pending.

Carriker was arrested in November in Fayette County for allegedly having consensual sex with a 25-year-old man between Dec. 10, 2003, and April 30, 2004, before informing the man he was HIV-positive, according to an arrest warrant. Carriker was released from a Fayette County jail on a $5,000 bond, according to court documents.

That man, John Withrow, later filed a civil lawsuit against Carriker, claiming he "suffered extreme and severe emotional distress arising from the fear of developing HIV."

Carriker was arrested in Atlanta on April 18 and again on April 25 on charges of reckless conduct after two men alleged Carriker did not inform them of his HIV status before engaging in sex with them in separate incidents. Carriker was released on $25,000 bond.

Carriker allegedly engaged in consensual oral sex with one of the Atlanta men between Jan. 8 and Jan 25, 2005, according to his May 10 indictment in Fulton County Superior Court. The indictment in Fulton also charges Carriker with having consensual oral and anal sex with a second Atlanta man without disclosing his HIV status between June 1, 2004, and Aug. 31, 2004.

In all three cases, Carriker is charged with violating a 1988 Georgia law that states a person commits a felony if he or she "... knowingly engages in sexual intercourse or performs or submits to any sexual act involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another person and the HIV infected person does not disclose to the other person the fact of that infected person's being an HIV infected person prior to that intercourse or sexual act."

During Friday's hearing, Carriker was accompanied by his parents. After his bond was revoked, Carriker took a cell phone out of his suit pocket and handed it to his father. Carriker's parents and attorney declined comment after the hearing.

Al Dixon, chief assistant district attorney in Fayette, said Carriker's April 18 arrest in Atlanta violated his bond in Fayette, which led to the hearing on Friday.

But Sparrow said Carriker denies any wrong doing in the Atlanta case.

"This defendant does contest that case," Sparrow said. "He is currently on release on bond from Fulton County and is required to be abstinent, and we propose those same terms here."

Sparrow added that Carriker was undergoing treatment at the Behavioral Medicine Institute of Atlanta, which specializes in the treatment of sexual problems, disruptive behaviors and medical and psychological problems, according to its Web site.

Carriker is on a leave of absence from the Emory University School of Medicine.

During his testimony Friday, Carriker denied having sex with an Atlanta man earlier this year without disclosing his status. Carriker said he was diagnosed as HIV-positive in June 2003.

"Did you tell him before or after your first sexual encounter?" Dixon asked Carriker. "Before," Carriker answered.

Sparrow questioned Det. P.C. Lyons of the Atlanta Police Department and showed her a three-page letter apparently written by the Atlanta man to Carriker dated March 10. Lyons read parts of the letter aloud, including the salutation, "Love."

The writer stated his dates with Carriker were the best he had ever had, Lyons read, and the Midtown man also stated in the letter, "It did not overly concern me when you told me of your status."

A hearing in the case against Carriker in Fulton County is not yet scheduled. The second charge against Carriker involving an Atlanta man and Carriker's April 25 arrest was not discussed during Friday's hearing.

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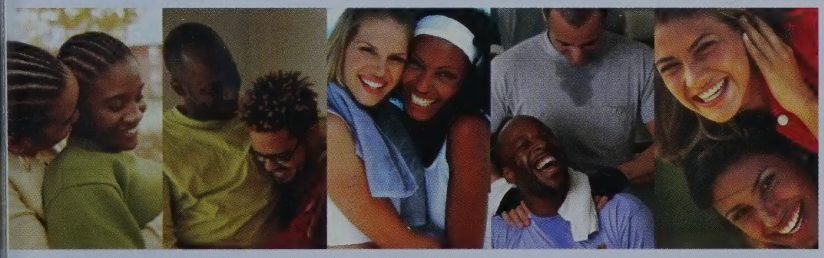

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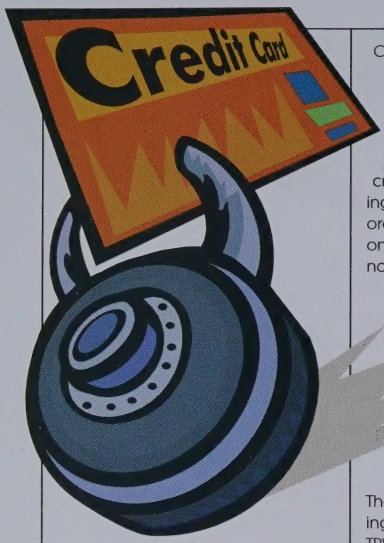
BY MARY ROWLAND



5 steps to credit repair

It's hard work to rebuild your credit rating. But it can be done.

Tens of thousands of Americans have damaged their credit ratings. They've misused or abused their credit cards or prolonged periods of illness or unemployment have engulfed them in financial distress. Whatever the reason, they suffer from bad credit, and must find a way to repair it to return to a normal life.

Create a perfect plan.

If you're among this group, don't despair. It's hard work to rebuild your credit rating, but it can be done.

"First you need to understand how credit works and then you need a plan," says Gerri Detweiler, a credit expert and author of "The Ultimate Credit Handbook."

What do the credit agencies say?

You need to know what the credit-reporting agencies are saying about you. For $8.50, you can order a copy of your credit report online from Equifax. You can also now get your credit score from Equifax and Fair, Isaac & Co. Just visit MSN MoneyCentral's Credit Reporter page. The credit score is a statistical tool designed to measure likelihood you'll pay your bills. For more information on the new service, see "Your secret credit score now available online."

The other two major credit-reporting agencies, Experian (formerly TRW) and TransUnion, charge similar fees. (Use the links below, left to order your report). You're entitled to a free copy of your report, however, if you've recently been denied credit. But you must order the report from the same credit bureau(s) that the lender used in rejecting your application, and you must order it within 30 days of the denial. Review your credit history once a year to check for errors and find out what creditors are saying about you.

Stay away from 'repair' clinics

What you don't need is a credit-repair clinic. These so-called clinics offer to help you clean up your credit by using loopholes in the law that only they know about. They may also promise to remove negative information from your file or to get you a major credit card. These are false promises, according to attorney John Ventura, author of "The Credit Repair Kit."

Some repair clinics may even get you into legal trouble by encouraging you to distort the information in your credit file, or by helping you to initiate a new file with a new address and federal identification number.

There are no special tricks that these credit repair clinics know, experts say. You can clean up your credit report yourself.

Here are five steps to credit repair:

1. Lock your cards away.

Don't close your accounts yet. If your credit rating has been damaged, you may have trouble getting new cards. But stop using them. Your immediate goal is to repair your credit rating and to get out of debt.

2. Figure out where you stand.

No one likes to focus on budgets and net-worth statements. It's particularly painful if you suspect your income is less than your debt and that your net worth is in minus territory. Still, finding out the truth is a necessary first step, just like stepping on the scale before you begin to diet. It helps you measure your success.

You have a great deal of control over your budget and net worth. But much of your credit record is actually controlled by others -- your creditors and the reporting bureaus. Between 30% and 40% of these reports contain errors, Ventura says. Clear those up first.

Ventura suggests that you write to the credit bureau detailing the errors in your report and that you send your correspondence by certified mail with a return receipt requested as you work to clean up your credit report. That will provide you with a paper trail and help you remember when to follow up.

Be as succinct as possible. Don't be angry or accusatory. Provide back-up materials whenever you can. For instance, if you've paid off a bill and received a letter from the former creditor acknowledging that the debt is paid, send along a copy.

In your letter, identify problems such as:

"The credit file your company maintains on me states that my account at Macy's is overdue. In fact, I have closed my account at Macy's and paid off the balance. I am enclosing a letter from Macy's to support that."

Tell the bureau that you want to

have the problem investigated as soon as possible. Ask to have a corrected report sent to anyone who has asked for the report during the past six months for credit purposes and during the past two years for employment purposes.

3. Devise a plan.

If you're going to clear up your credit rating, you must begin paying your bills on time. That means you pay at least the minimum balance on each bill within 30 days. Determine whether you can do that. If you aren't even close, consider credit counseling. If it's hopeless, you may want to consider bankruptcy and a fresh start. Determine which course of action you will take and stick to your guns.

4. Negotiate with creditors.

Nine out of 10 creditors will renegotiate terms with you if you're having trouble paying bills. Good candidates are gasoline companies, utility companies, hospitals and doctors. Gasoline cards are usually not reported to credit bureaus until you're 90 days late, and the others don't generally show up on credit reports unless the bills are sent to a collection agency. Write a letter to these creditors describing your problem and requesting a reduced payment schedule. Then stick to your new schedule.

5. Add pertinent information to your credit file.

Your credit report may be damaged as much by the information that is omitted as by the negative information that is found there. Creditors are not required to report information to a credit bureau. But you are entitled to add information that you feel will help your rating.

The law says you are allowed to write a letter of up to 100 words involving any credit dispute and that the agency must provide to any creditors who ask for information. That might include the details of loans that you paid on schedule, active accounts where you have a good record, salary increases at your job, and information about your mortgage, car loan or the settlements of disputed bills.

Ventura suggests that you write to the bureau, enclosing a copy of your credit report and the information that you would like added to the report. Also include information, such as account numbers, that will allow the credit bureau to verify it.

Negative information can be maintained on your report for seven years; bankruptcies for 10 years. But many creditors weigh new information more heavily.

"How much you pay is not as important as how often you pay," Detweiler says. "It's important to establish a record of paying bills on time and to stick with it."

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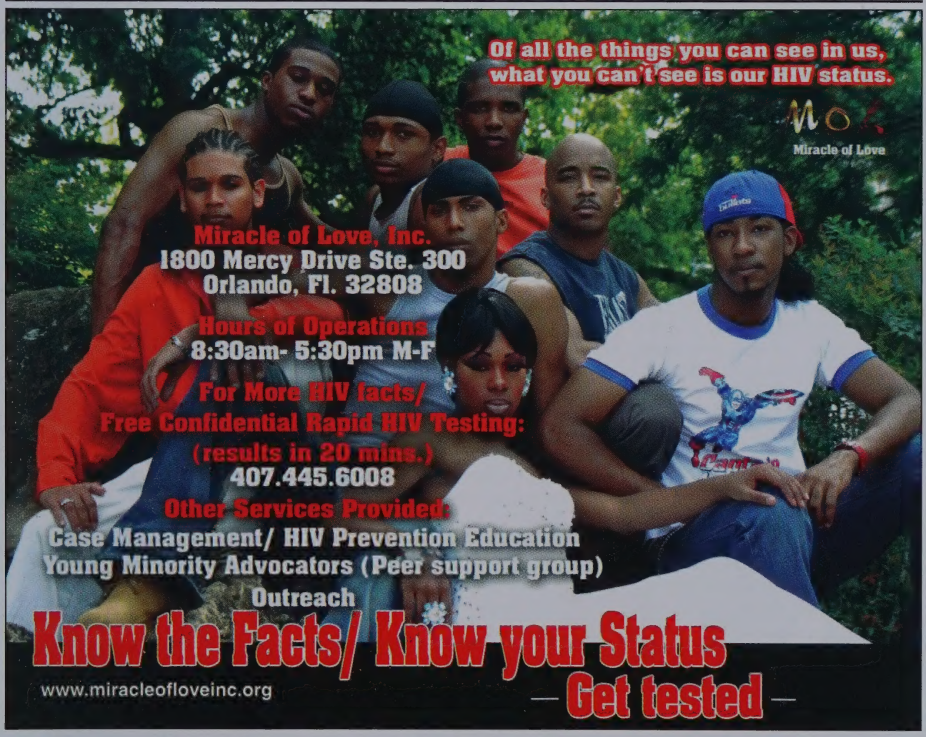
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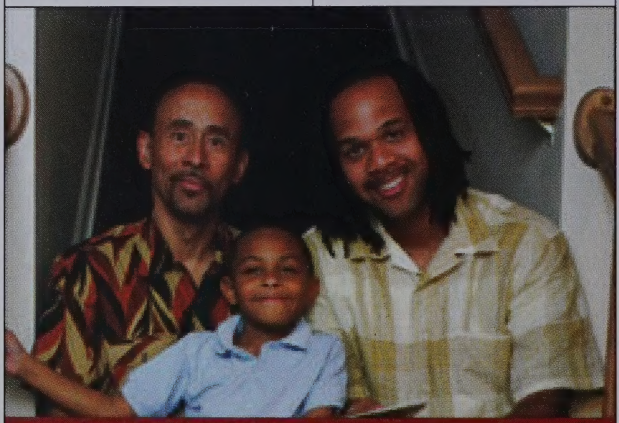
Single parenting is riskier for kids than gay marriage

Katherine Kersten's June 2 column about heterosexual marriage reflects the deep concern she and many Americans share about what is happening to marriage in our society. She is right to be concerned: Half of all marriages end in divorce and the percentage of adults who are married has been declining for 30 years. The danger in this trend is what it does to kids. Kersten correctly points out that, on average, children with married parents live better lives.



source: National Black Justice Coalition

Kersten sees same-sex marriage as further degrading the "marriage culture" and sending the wrong message to children: "offering them a smorgasbord of 'lifestyle options,' and telling them their choices are merely a matter of personal taste."

The messages we send to our children are important. Nearly every movie, television show, and advertisement glorifies sex and instant gratification instead of long-term commitment. One-third of all births in America are now to single mothers. Could there be a connection? Where we part company with Kersten is on the message that gay marriage would send to children and the effect that gay marriage would have on children. If being raised by a married couple is good for kids -- and it is -- then children of same-sex couples deserve the benefits of marriage as much as any other kids.

And there are lots of them. Despite the fact that marriage is unavailable to gays nearly everywhere in this country, there are gay couples living in more than 99 percent of all counties, and, according to the 2000 census, about 25 percent of same-sex households include children. Estimates of how many children are being raised by gay parents vary widely, but there may be more than 5 million children of lesbian, gay and bisexual parents now living in the United States.

And the evidence is becoming increasingly clear that children raised by two same-sex parents do just as well as those raised by two straight parents.

The more general issue, though, is Kersten's concern about the message that same-sex marriage would convey to other children. The message conveyed by formally recognizing loving, committed partnerships would not be a smorgasbord of options, but a recommendation for the single healthiest entree -- sexual partnerships ought to be formalized and permanent. In particular, parents, gay or straight, ought to be married.

At last, a strong counter to the media trash. Without same-sex marriage we are likely to see more and more parents openly living together without marriage. That surely conveys the wrong message.

Kersten says: "The agenda of traditional-marriage proponents is not negative -- fear or hatred of homosexuals." Our experience teaching this subject suggests that opposition to gay marriage really is often grounded in moral disapproval of homosexuality. That changes the debate but does not end it, because those deeply opposed on religious grounds to homosexuality -- and therefore same-sex marriage -- need to have their concerns respected.

Since marriage has such strong religious and moral connotations to so many people, it may be that the only way out of this debate is for the government to get out of the marriage business altogether. Sanctification of marriages on religious grounds could continue to be reserved for churches, synagogues and mosques to offer to whomever they choose. As a civil society, though, we could all get behind any couple who is willing to do the hard work of long-term commitment. The government could designate such couples "permanent partners" and offer the state's strong financial and legal incentives to all couples willing to make a permanent public commitment.

This is scary stuff. Change always is. But whatever we decide about gay marriage, let's agree on what's really putting kids at risk -- single parenting -- and cheer for commitment wherever we find it.

Bruce Peterson is a Hennepin County judge. John Gordon is a Minneapolis lawyer. They teach a seminar in Law and Social Policy at the University of St. Thomas Law School.

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82 percent of Fortune 500 now has

gay protections

More companies adopt gay, trans-friendly workplace policies

Gay and lesbian equality advanced in the workplaces of corporate America last year, according to the annual "State of the Workplace" report released by the Human Rights Campaign last week.

A total of 17 Fortune 500 companies added domestic partner health benefits in 2004, an increase of 9 percent over the number of companies offering the benefits the year before. Thirteen additional companies announced that they would begin offering domestic partner health benefits in 2005.

Among Fortune 500 companies, 410, or 82 percent, now include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies. Of the largest companies, the Fortune 50, only ExxonMobil does not include sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies.

"Fair-minded policies help recruit and retain the best talent while improving productivity by ensuring that all of their employees can provide for their families," HRC President Joe Solmonese said.

In 2004, 51 of the Fortune 500 companies included gender identity in their non-discrimination policies, up 89 percent from 2003 when only 27 Fortune 500 companies had the policy.

Since 2002, the HRC Corporate Equality Index has been tracking spousal equivalency benefits in an annual survey of Fortune 500 companies. The Equality Index looks at 10 criteria including medical insurance, family and medical leave, life insurance and retirement benefits.

This year, 83 of the Fortune 500 companies offer all the spousal equivalency benefits tracked by the Equality Index.

Top companies have top records

According to the report, the more successful the corporation, the more likely it is to offer benefits to gay and lesbian employees. While 46 percent of the Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner benefits, 76 percent of the Fortune 50 do.

Among colleges and universities, 74 percent of the 50 top national four-year colleges (as ranked by U.S. News & World Report) provided domestic partnership coverage.

Of companies that offer DP benefits, 95 percent offer them to heterosexual as well as gay employees. HRC said that this is due in part to equal benefit ordinances that require entities doing business with government entities to offer benefits equally.

Margaret Stumpp underwent a male-to-female gender transition while working as a senior vice president of investment management for Prudential Financial.

Stumpp said that her company was supportive as she underwent the transition and that her clients were more concerned with her investment performance that with her performance.

"In my three years since my transition, business has never been better. I have met with corporate boards, chief executives, clients around the globe. My organization has taken in roughly $3 billion in new deposits from institutional investors this year alone. Had I been fired, the firm would have potentially lost millions in profits."

DP benefits survive marriage bans

State constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage passed in 13 states last year, the HRC reported, and though the marriage amendments in Michigan and in Ohio have been interpreted to restrict public institutions from offering DP benefits, none of the amendments has been interpreted to mean that private companies can't offer benefits.

Margaret Stumpp, a senior vice president at Prudential Financial, said she appreciated the support of her company during her transition from male to female identity. According to HRC, in the past 15 months the number of Fortune 500 companies that include gender identity in their non-discrimination policies has doubled.

There is no federal legislation that protects workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and 34 states do not offer protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation. In this climate, the HRC said, corporations that offer equal benefits to gays play a critical role in the well being of gay workers.

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DAVID WAHLBERG

CDC targets HIV in blacks

National conference in Atlanta focuses on epidemic among African-American men.

It's half past midnight, and hip-hop pulses through 836, a Midtown Atlanta nightclub where hundreds of black men dance, drink and check one another out.

Muscular men, many in tight tank tops, some wearing baseball caps, a few with pants hung low, saunter by Ronnie Bass. With his white T-shirt, baggy jeans and Yankees hat cocked to one side, Bass blends in.

But he has something many of these men don't: condoms. He has bowls of them, along with safer-sex brochures, a video about negotiating intimate discussions and kits to test for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Bass hands condoms to the men passing by, stopping to talk to one. "I want you to see our intervention," he says, in a flirting tone.

"All right!" the man replies. "I need some intervention, baby!"

Bass, executive director of the AIDS organization Someone Cares, is trying to limit HIV in the population with the highest known infection rate in the country: young black men who have sex with other men, many of whom don't identify themselves as gay.

It's a community that is a major focus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2005 National HIV Prevention Conference in Atlanta, which started Sunday and runs through Wednesday.

HIV, first reported 24 years ago, may be on the rise again in the United States, especially among gay men, after steady declines in AIDS rates during the 1990s, according to the CDC. About 1 million Americans have HIV or AIDS, one-fourth of whom don't know it, with roughly 40,000 new infections every year, the CDC says.

In recent years, the epidemic has taken on more of a black identity. African-Americans, who make up 12 percent of the U.S. population, account for more than half of new HIV and AIDS cases.

Among white gay men — still a high-risk group — researchers say that methamphetamine, Internet chat rooms and a disregard for condoms after years of "AIDS fatigue" are fueling an HIV surge.

In black men who have sex with men, the picture is less clear, in part because such men were less studied until recently. But the black community and public health officials have increasingly focused on the disproportionate rate of HIV among blacks — especially black women, who are 19 times more likely to be infected than white women. The vast majority of black women who get HIV get it from sex with men. The biggest risk factor for black men is unsafe sex with other men.

"In the past five years, the evidence has accumulated to emphasize the importance of this population," said Richard Wolitski, acting chief of prevention research at the CDC's HIV center. "We need to do as much as we can to reduce their HIV risk."

Some bisexual black men serve as a "bridge" for spreading HIV to black women, researchers say. A study in North Carolina last year found rising HIV infections among black male college students, most of whom said they had sex with men and many also with women.

Posing as straight

A CDC study four years ago in seven cities of men ages 23-29 who had sex with men revealed alarming statistics: 32 percent of the black men tested positive for HIV, compared with 14 percent of Hispanic men and 7 percent of white men. "That's approaching Botswana's level of infection," Dr. David Satcher, then the U.S. surgeon general, said of the black rate.

Books such as one last year by J.L King, a married black man who wrote about his affairs with men, have brought a slang term for a long-occurring behavior out of the closet: being on the "down low," or concealing sex with other men behind a straight identity, largely because many African-Americans are anti-gay.

It's unclear whether men on the "down low" use condoms less than other men. But researchers are starting to ask that question, among others.

Lawrence Bryant of the Morehouse School of Medicine interviewed black men in Atlanta who have sex with men and found that fewer than one-third identified themselves as gay. That may be because some influential black churches discourage frank talk of homosexuality, he said.

"You're silently accepted as long as you don't say anything," Bryant said. "The minute you come out, it's a totally different picture."

John Peterson, a psychology professor at Georgia State University,

CDC CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

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CDC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

has studied HIV among black homosexual and bisexual men since the 1980s, perhaps longer than anyone else.

Peterson recently set out to learn why black men who have sex with men have higher rates of HIV than other men, even though they report similar rates of condom use. He enrolled 95 young black Atlanta men in a study, then asked them to invite other men with whom they had had sex or close friendships; 63 joined. Peterson found that the men in the secondary network used condoms less than those originally in the study. That, combined with an already high prevalence of HIV, puts all black men who have sex with men at greater risk, he said.

Peterson said efforts to study and combat HIV in black men have increased significantly in recent years. But "is it enough to address the magnitude of the problem? No way," he said. "The cost of not doing enough is continuing to see death, disease and lost productivity of black men in the prime of their lives."

Defusing a plague

Several efforts in Atlanta, some funded by the CDC, aim to defuse the epidemic in black men and the black community in general.

At Morehouse, Bryant plans group discussions about sex and HIV for black men and women, patterned after recent sessions for women only.

AID Atlanta, based in Midtown, offers six weekly "Deeper Love" workshops for black gay men to discuss self-esteem, dual identity and other issues. The program also runs a weekend retreat at Red Top Mountain State Park.

The AIDS Survival Project recruits black men via the Internet for informal, in-person chats, dubbed "Brothaz Unplugged."

Our Common Welfare, an agency south of Decatur, serves people with HIV and substance abuse, the vast majority of them black men. The agency coaches them on how to disclose their HIV status to others --- and prevent passing the virus.

Bass, of Someone Cares, based in Smyrna, goes to streets known to attract prostitutes and to the parking lots of "adult" bookstores. He hands out "safer sex" kits, containing condoms, lubricant and cards bearing phone numbers for HIV information and testing.

But Bass spends much of his time in bars: Tower II, east of downtown, and 836, the name given to Midtown's Armory on Saturdays, when it becomes almost exclusively black.

"We're a spinoff of the DL [down-low] scene," said manager Mario Harris II. "It's not straight; it's not gay. It's men who like men."

On a recent night at 836, Bass and a few volunteers stood in the corner of a patio, handing out condoms and HIV brochures while men danced to the music of Snoop Dogg, Lumidee, Bobby Valentino and other hip-hop and rhythm-and-blues artists. Bass played a video about lovers negotiating condom use --- his "intervention," in public health parlance. He also displayed a sign offering free HIV testing.

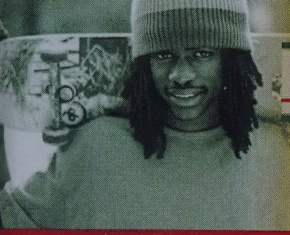
A man approached and asked for a test. He told Bass he had had unprotected sex with other men. Bass told him that abstinence is the only sure way to remain free of HIV but that using condoms helps a lot. Bass donned latex gloves and pricked the man's index finger, drawing a drop of blood that he placed into a vial.

Twenty minutes later, the man returned. His test was negative. So was that of a second man tested that night. Testing and safer-sex messages remain two key public health tools to stem HIV, but many black men never get either, Bass said.

"You can't sit back in some office and expect people to walk in," he said. "You have to go to where they are."

AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND HIV

Black men are seven times more likely to have HIV than white men. Their biggest risk factor is unsafe sex with other men. Black women are 19 times more likely to be infected than white women; the vast majority get the virus through unsafe sex with men. Health officials say that some bisexual black men serve as a "bridge" for HIV. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but account for 51 percent of cases of HIV/AIDS.

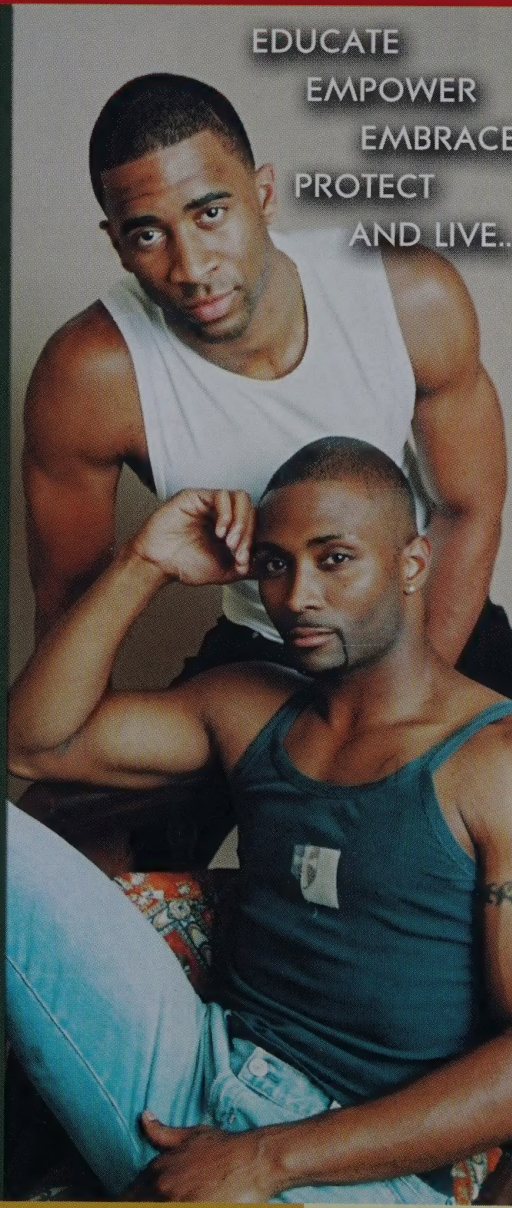


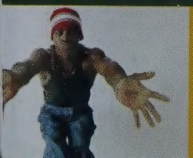
HOUSTON YOUNG MEN SAVING MEN

YMSM is a community empowerment project of the Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation.

YMSM provides you and your partner with:

- An Opportunity to Voice Your Concerns
- Free HIV/STI Counseling and Testing
- Safer Sex Education
- Peer Counseling
- Risk Reduction Education
- Referral Services
- Depression Counseling
- Self Esteem Development
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
- Decision Making/Partner Negotiation
- Prevention Case Management
- Leadership Training
- Social and Recreational Activities
- Volunteer Opportunities
- A Safe Social Environmen





YMSM Drop-In Center, 1403 Wheeler, Houston, Texas 77004

(713) 526-1979 office - (713) 526-1976 fax

1-800-455-YMSM

ALL SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL

AIDS Dramas

With the century that introduced AIDS to the world drawn to a close, we can take comfort in knowing that the cure for this devastating disease will be discovered in the next millennium, and we can hope to see it happen in our lifetime. Here are a number of films that may help us to view the disease -- and the people living with HIV and AIDS -- in a new light.

Gia:

The Tragic Story of a Supermodel. Feisty and openly gay, Gia was a breath of fresh air in the fashion

world of her day; sadly, she was also one of the first women to succumb to AIDS.

And the Band Played On

HBO's adaptation of Randy Shilts's landmark book gives a powerful and angry account of the early days of AIDS research -- or lack thereof. Starring Richard Gere, Lily Tomlin, and a who's who of socially-conscious Hollywood luminaries.

The Living End

Two fatalistic L.A. boys -- one's an impulsive, on-the-edge psycho cutie; the other listens to The Smiths a lot, and likes Godard movies -- discover they're HIV positive and set about on an unplanned, unhinged serio-comic spree of violence and abandon.

Parting Glances

Charting 24 hours before two handsome young NYC lovers part, the film has a sweet tenor somewhat compromised by the fact that its yuppie protagonists are far less interesting than one subsidary role: Steve Buscemi's marvelous, antic PWA/artist best-friend.

Rock the Boat

An inspiring and surprisingly exciting documentary following an all-gay, all-HIV-positive crew of amateur yachtsmen competing in the gruelling Trans-Pacific yacht race.

Silverlake Life: The View from Here

This groundbreaking documentary about the lives of a gay couple facing the reality of living with AIDS won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival.

Together Alone

Two men who have just had unprotected sex develop an intimacy as they discuss everything from AIDS to mis-matched socks. Winner of the 1995 San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival Audience Award for Best Feature.

Via Appia

Frank is content with having casual sex with boys he meets on his travels around the world -- until one of his conquests leaves him with the stark farewell, "Welcome to the AIDS club."

Voices from the Front

This powerful film, the first feature-length documentary to comprehensively cover the AIDS activist movement in America, makes clear the emotional and political effects of community activism using the voices of those directly engaged.

Zero Patience

John Greyson's Zero Patience is an AIDS musical that is to Hollywood AIDS stories like Philadelphia what Peter Duesberg is to the CDC: an annoyance. Stubbornly agnostic, beautifully sentimental, this film manages to turn almost every AIDS paradigm on its head.

Real Playas Always Strap It

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HIV INFECTION

ALWAYS USE A CONDOM!

Do you know your status, and if you do, are you getting the Care & Treatment you need?

If you don't know your status, ***GET TESTED TODAY!***
For information on prevention, treatment and care call
786-318-2337

Taking Responsibility Is Being Empowered

The goal of The TRIBE HIV Prevention Program at Empower "U" is to decrease the risk of HIV transmission among young African-American MSMs. We work towards increasing knowledge and awareness about HIV, increasing HIV testing among young black MSMs, and facilitating HIV risk reduction skills development and decision making.

Programs & Services*

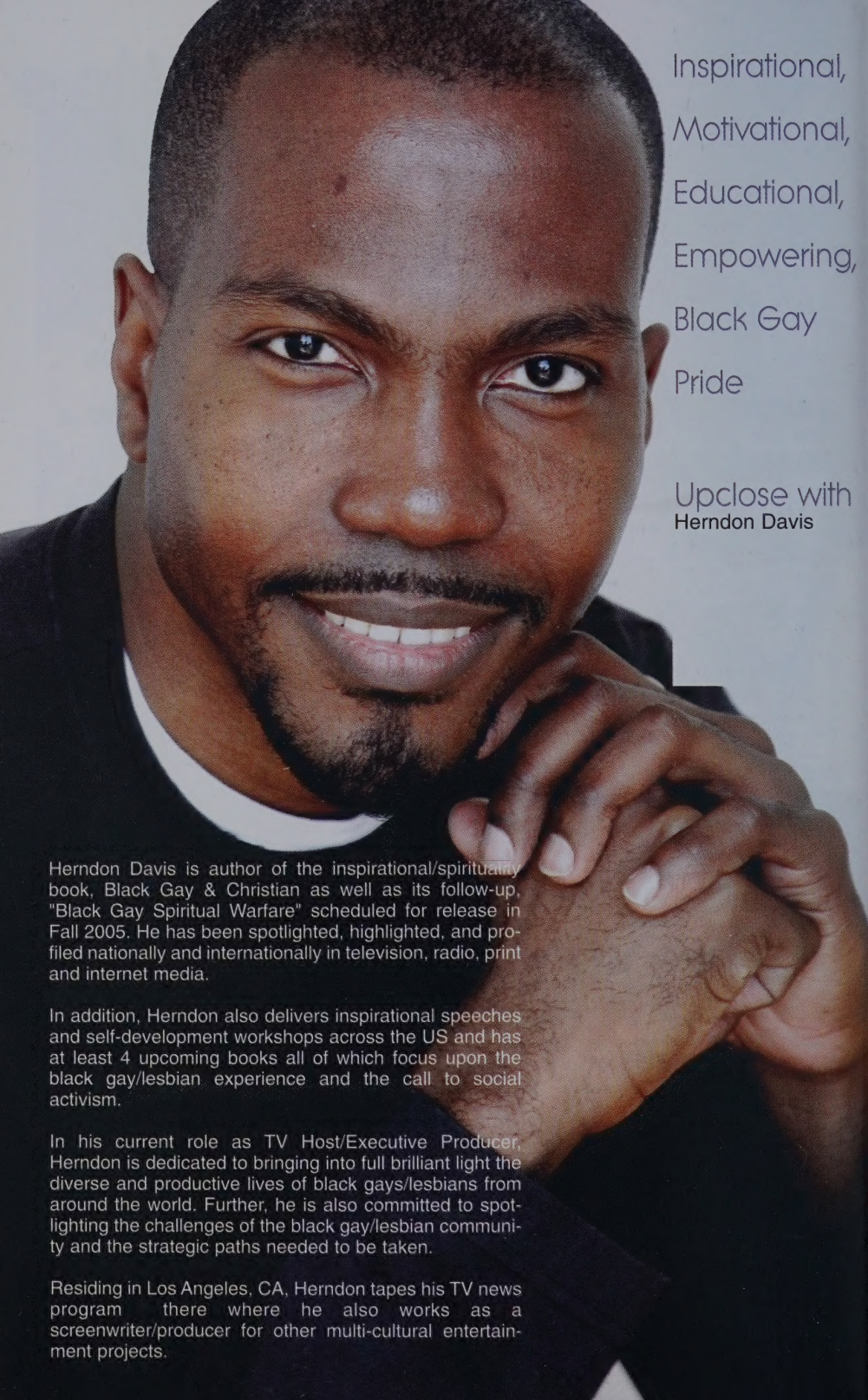
HIV/AIDS Services & Treatment ■ Free HIV Testing & Counseling ■ Housing
Food ■ Free Medical Treatment ■ Individual & Group Counseling
HIV Outreach & Prevention ■ Free METRO Bus Passes
Individualized Substance Abuse Counseling ■ Medications
HIV/AIDS Case Management ■ Medical Care
(* Services are free to clients that meet minimum eligibility)

TRIBE
a program of Empower "U", Inc.

"Until there's a cure"
8309 NW 22 Avenue
Miami, FL 33147
(786) 318-2337

Visit Us Online At:
www.Empower-U-Miami.org

Program Funded By The Alliance Service



Inspirational,
Motivational,
Educational,
Empowering,
Black Gay
Pride

Upclose with
Herndon Davis

Herndon Davis is author of the inspirational/spirituality book, Black Gay & Christian as well as its follow-up, "Black Gay Spiritual Warfare" scheduled for release in Fall 2005. He has been spotlighted, highlighted, and profiled nationally and internationally in television, radio, print and internet media.

In addition, Herndon also delivers inspirational speeches and self-development workshops across the US and has at least 4 upcoming books all of which focus upon the black gay/lesbian experience and the call to social activism.

In his current role as TV Host/Executive Producer, Herndon is dedicated to bringing into full brilliant light the diverse and productive lives of black gays/lesbians from around the world. Further, he is also committed to spotlighting the challenges of the black gay/lesbian community and the strategic paths needed to be taken.

Residing in Los Angeles, CA, Herndon tapes his TV news program there where he also works as a screenwriter/producer for other multi-cultural entertainment projects.

BY: HERNDON L DAVIS

SPIRITUAL Orgasm:

Praise and Worship after Lovemaking

This is part 3 and the final installment of series of essays dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God. It runs as follows: 1. Spiritual Romance: An Adam and Steve Love Story (May 2005) 2. Spiritual Sex: Can you Make Love to Gospel Music? (June 2005) 3. Spiritual Orgasm: Praise and Worship after Lovemaking (July 2005)

As a same-gender-loving man or woman, after you,ve just had mind-blowing, intense lovemaking, can you now pray on your knees in front of your partner? Can you read your bible immediately afterwards? Can you preach, teach or sing Amazing Grace right after your orgasm? Or do you need time to distance your sex from your praise and worship?

When the orgasms have come and gone, do you immediately jump into the shower to wash away your lover,s juices and scents, or can you further spiritually connect with him/her in your nakedness by sharing your deepest spiritual thoughts and testifying to God,s grace and glory?

Can the two of you conduct a bible study afterwards? Can you share your love for God just as you,ve shared your love for each other? And can you develop and share a spiritual orgasm together, which is your heightened mutual love for God as expressed through your spiritual relationship and growth with the Father/Mother/Universe.

Further, can you praise your Creator publicly with your same-gender-loving partner? Do you feel comfortable attending church service sitting next to your partner and praising the same God who just witnessed your frolicking, foreplay and intimate lovemaking just a couple of hours earlier?

Or is your sex separated from your praise and worship where you can easily share an orgasm, but never your love, praise, and worship of God? If this describes you, then please ask yourself why?

If you are indeed engaged in a spiritual romance, engaging in spiritual sex, then why not have the spiritual orgasm that goes along with it? Why not reach the level where both of you achieve the physical and spiritual peak where you,re carried off into a heightened sense of awareness and conciseness in God.

Remember sex isn,t just a physical act, it,s a spiritual one as well. When we focus solely on the physical we miss out on the rest of the joy and rewards that God has created for us. That is why so many of us experience emptiness and loneliness after the orgasm has passed. That is why so many of us are able to have multiple sex partners with little conscience or regard because the person we,re with is merely a warm body, just for the moment to fulfill a carnal or fleshly need.

When we regard sex in such disposable terms and not within the spiritual and loving context in which God created and intended it to be, we become lost souls, searching for love in all the wrong places and for spiritual growth everywhere but within ourselves.

We can never reach our pinnacle if we,re still stuck in the mud of our current existence. We can never grow spiritually as gay/lesbian, same-gen-

ORGASM CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

ORGASMA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

der-loving men and women if we still think God doesn,t love or accept us or our sexual relationships and practices.

Our spiritual orgasm is truly meant to be continuous, multiple, and more intense as we grow older. Our spiritual orgasm is a state of being of acceptance, study, growth, and joy of living. Our spiritual orgasm transcends the bedroom and transcends the church. It transcends the bible and pastor/bishop,s sermons and all the trappings of earthly church worship.

Spiritual orgasm is a never-ending relationship between you and God that continues into the after-life and beyond. It is an infinite splendor of brilliance, spiritual connectivity, and universal wholeness that comes simply through your willingness to grow into the stream of life that God has provided for you.

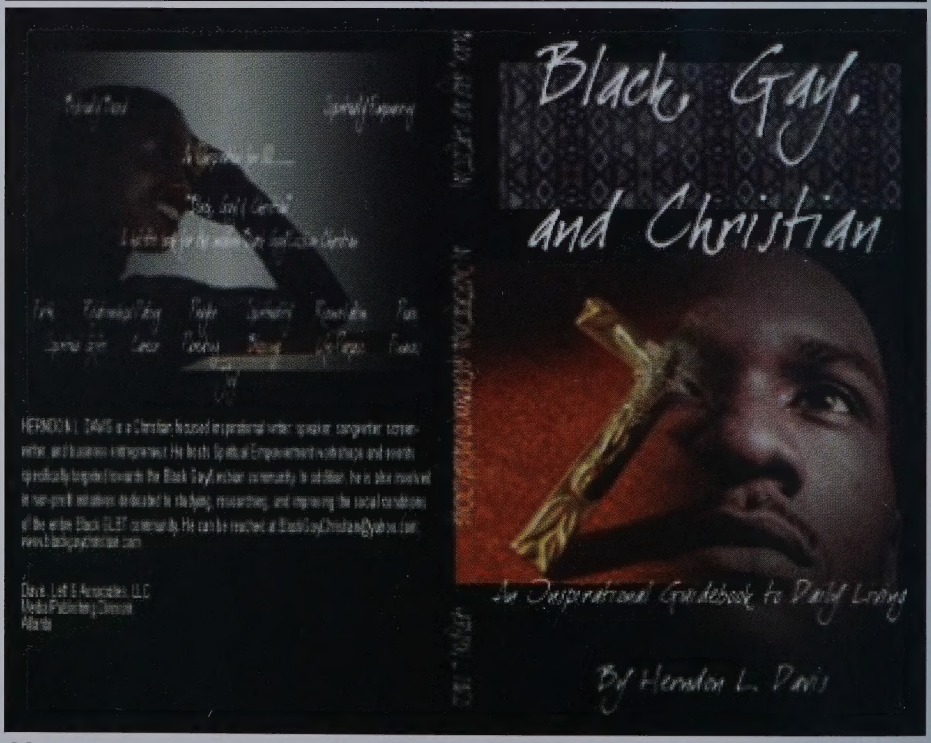
If you cannot share any of this with the one you just got your freak-on, then why do it? If your current romantic relationship has no spiritual depth, then why stay in it? Relationships are a ying-yang, push-pull, partnering existence. If you,re not benefiting from it and vice versa, then are you spiritually yoked enough for your relationship to thrive 5 years from now or 45 years from now??

Contrary to popular belief, same-gender-loving relationships, can work and they do work. They can thrive and they do thrive. They can be ordained by God, and they are ordained by God. If you place love as your center and if God is the epicenter of the center of your love, then your relationship is ordained.

Finally, it has been my hope, my wish, but most of all it has been my prayer that each of you can and will reach this pinnacle of spiritual romance, sex, and orgasm. It is not an abstract, pie-in-the sky construct, but instead it is a God driven and ordained reality for many gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving couples.

Always remember there is absolutely no limit in God or in what we can do in God.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



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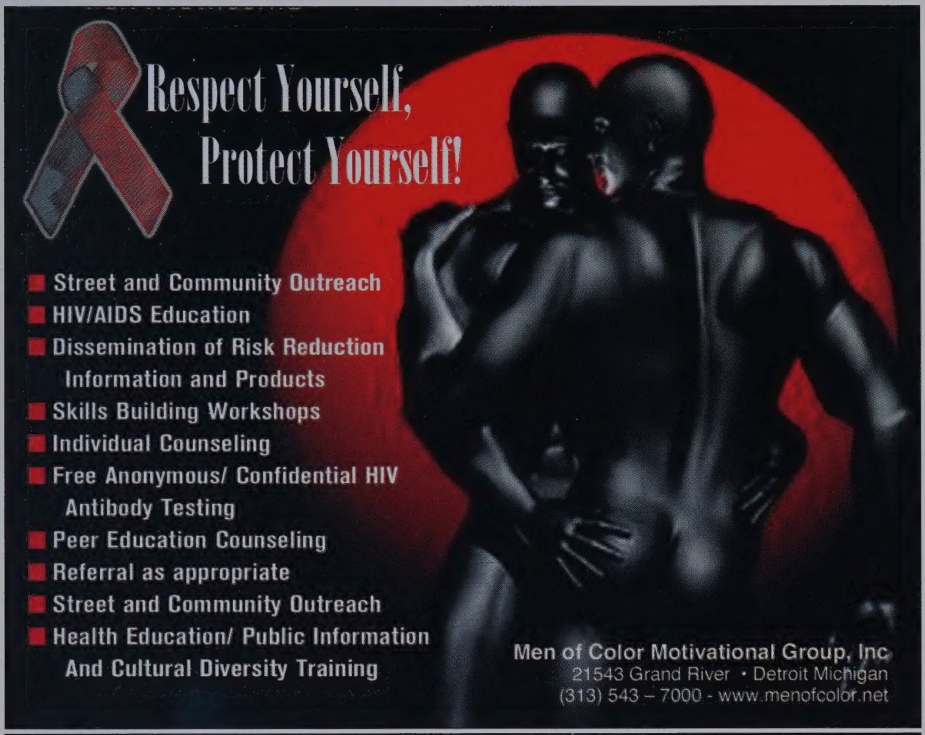
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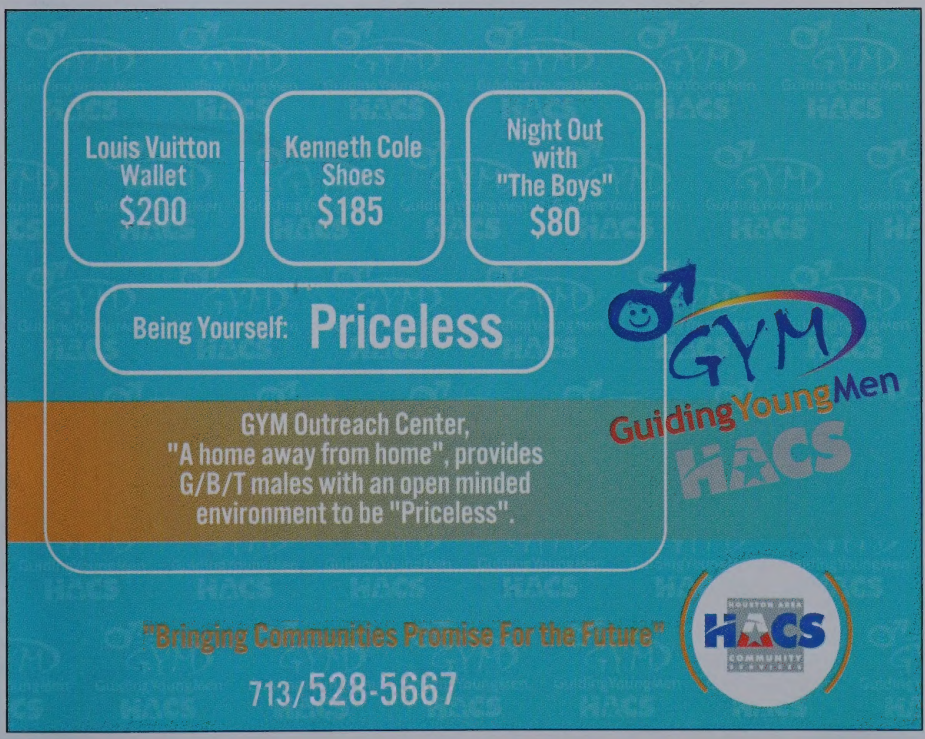
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The Midwest's Oldest Black Pride Since 1996

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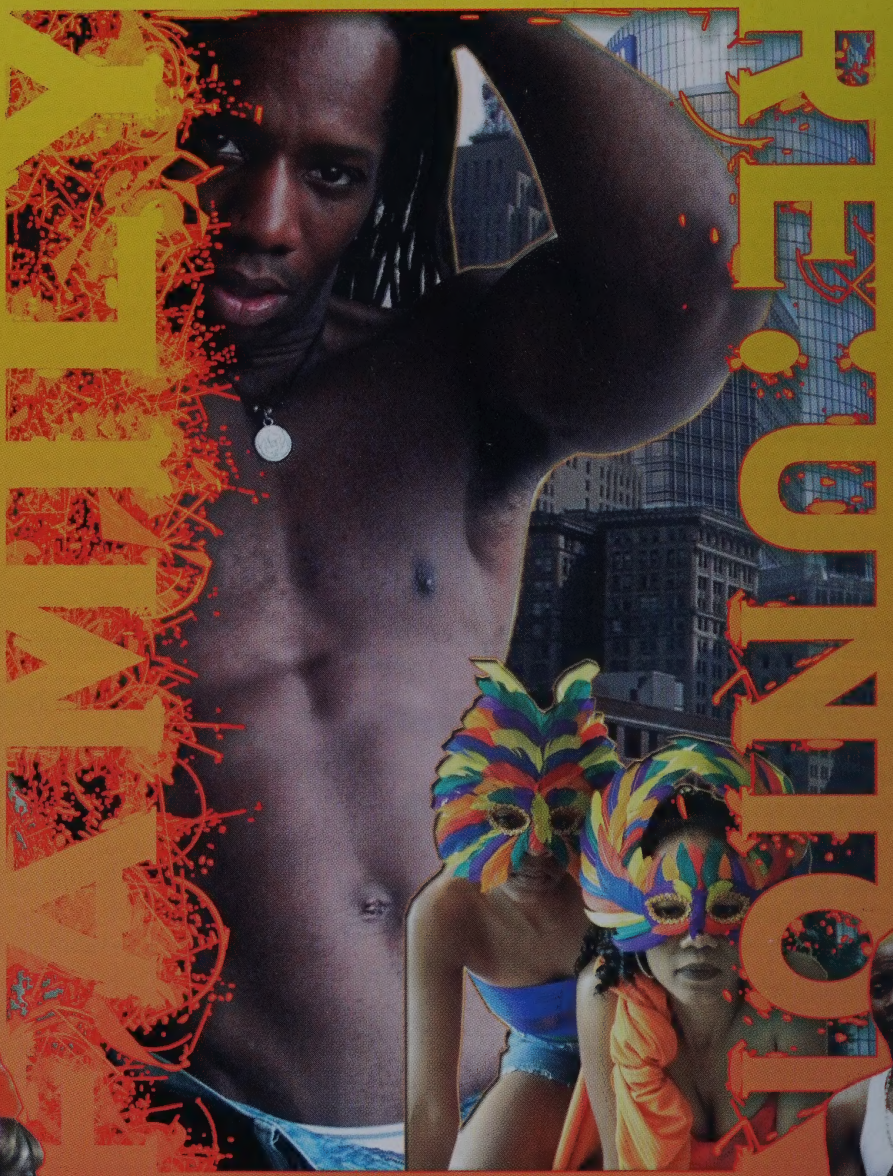
FAMILY RE:UNION | JULY 27 - 31, 2005

TEN YEARS OF BLACK SAME-GENDER-LOVING PRIDE IN DETROIT



BLACK PRIDE SOCIETY

DETROIT

WWW.HOTTERTHANJULY.COM

07-27 WEDNESDAY
V.I.P. OPENING RECEPTION
GENESIS SUMMIT V

07-28 THURSDAY
INTERFAITH CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
WOMYNS FILM FESTIVAL

07-29 FRIDAY
KARIBU KOMEDY KLU
GENESIS SUMMIT V

07-30 SATURDAY
PRIDE PICNIC & PARADE

07-31 SUNDAY
JAZZ JAM BRUNCH & CLOSING PARTY

About DBGPride Inc.

Detroit Black Gay Pride Inc. (DBGPride Inc.) is a grass-roots, non-profit organization dedicated to efforts that nurture pride in our community. We do this by keeping a focus on positive and collective works that celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity.

It is through the efforts of generous volunteers, dedicated community leaders, friends, family and allies, that we are provided the privilege of producing what has become a historic black gay pride celebration in our community, Detroit's Hotter Than July.

Detroit's Hotter Than July is a grass-roots social project founded in the core principles of Kwanzaa. It serves as a year round effort promoting collective works to nurture a healthy community through economics, spirituality, networking, education and culture.

We are proud to be the stewards of the Midwest's oldest black lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate and transgender pride celebration. We are also proud to have our efforts serve as a model for other prides across the United States.

DBGPride Inc. is a Charter Member of the International Federation of Black Prides (IFBPrides), representing more than twenty-five black pride L-G-B-T celebrations across North America and South Africa.

History

For many summers preceding 1996, Detroit's population of black lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate, and transgender citizens celebrated at the end of each July around annual social gatherings produced by the Billionaire Boys' Club (B.B.C.), Men of Color Motivational Group (M.O.C.) and Ladies of a Current Affair. During this time many Detroiters were also taking annual pilgrimages to Washington D.C. where black pride celebrations originated. The cross polination around these events planted the seed for establishing a community-focused, grass-roots, black pride celebration based in Detroit, Michigan.

In 1995, M.O.C. initiated the ground work, planting the seeds for what would eventualy serve as the foundation in which pride was launched as a community wide event. Community organizers, business leaders, advocates and allies made a commitment to work collectively to set forth on an ambitious mission establishing what is now known as Detroit's Hotter Than July.

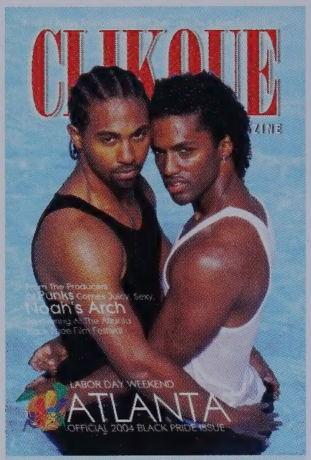
In 1996 Detroit celebrated it's first black pride with the official support of the Baldwin Parker Society, Billionaire Boys' Club, A. Lorde Collective, Kick Publishing Co., Men Of Color Motivational Group, Project Survival, Ladies of A Current Affair and Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church.

Since 1996, Detroit's Hotter Than July has grown into one the most significant black pride celebrations in North America. Currently, Detroit is host to the oldest black pride in the Midwest's. We also serve as proud charter members of the InternationalFederation of Black Prides (IFBPrides) which represents over twenty-four black prides across the continent, including Johanesburg, South Africa and Toronto, Canada.

Today, Detroit's Hotter Than July is produced by Detroit Black Gay Pride Inc. (DBGPride Inc.). Members on the board are selected from participating community based organizations, businesses and leaders within our local community.

In pride, our community grows through collective works, initiated to produce a celebration that nurtures our identity and culture. Through pride we practice the kwanza principle of "Ujima" to empower all lesbian, gay, bi-affectionate and transgender people of african descent in Detroit and beyond.

CLIKQUE MAGAZINE IS A PROUD GOLD OF HOTTER THAN JULY



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Wednesday, July 27th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Opening V.I.P. Reception

Join us as we celebrate the historic tenth celebration of Detroit's black same-gender-loving (S-G-L) pride celebration, Detroit's Hotter Than July. Featuring entertainment, music by DJ Dre' of Soundcircle Collective, light refreshments, art exhibition and community networking.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn @ Harmonie Park, 351 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48226

Thursday, July 28th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
Brothers Saving Brothers 1.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore

Part 1: "Dying Before Their Time" Seniors In Detroit
Facilitators: Facilitators/Presenters: Jennifer Martin, Walter & May Reuther Senior Services, a division of Matrix Human Services

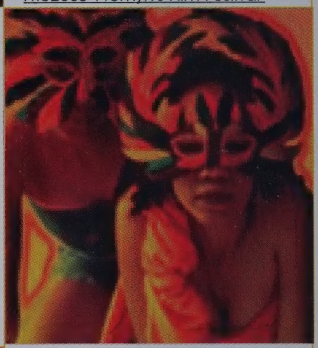
Part 2: Legal Issues For Same Sex Couples - Durable Powers of Attorneys, Wills, etc.
Facilitator: Katy Graham, Elder Law Center, Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
Interfaith Candlelight Vigil
Each year Detroit's Hotter Than July is officially opened with a special ceremony to pay tribute to those in our community who have made there transition due to AIDS/HIV and breast cancer at the Blue Spruce Memorial in Palmer Park. Everyone welcomed.

Location: Palmer Park @ Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Detroit, MI

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.
HTJ2005 Womyn's Film Festival



Featuring films by GBF's Stephanie Wynne with a special feature starring MC Lyte in "A Luv's Tale". Event hosted by Spanish Fly Entertainment.

Location: Club Palladium, 711 E. McNichols, Detroit, MI

Time: 10:00 P.M. - 1:00 A.M.
SIZZLIN' SKATE JAM
Sponsored by Men Empowered. Featuring dance music by local house DJ's, entertainment and dance until dawn.

Location: Detroit Roller Wheels , 16611 Schoolcraft Rd, Detroit, MI, (313) 837-7680. For additional information contact via (313) 585-8791 or via email.
Cost: $7.00 Advance / $10.00 Door

Time: 10:00 P.M. - Until
HTJ2005 Official Afterhours @ Club Inuendo

Sponsored by Club Inuendo. Featuring dance music by local house DJ's, entertainment and dance until dawn.
Cost: $10.00

Friday, July 29th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
The (True) Family values Auction: Queer Folk Reclaiming Parenting from the Religiously Wrong
Facilitators: Dr. Staci Hirsch, Psy.D., co-founder of Identity Solutions

Looks are Deceiving (Gay Labeling)

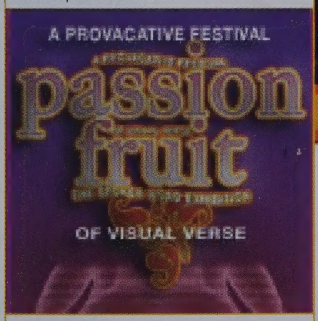
Facilitators: Men of Rainbow
Brothers Saving Brothers 2.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore
Transgender Institute: What's Your "T"... The Benjamin Standards of Care
Speaker: Dr. Marci Bowers, Ph.D.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)

Time: 8:00 P.M. - Midnight
Karibu Komedy Klub
Detroit black prides first annual variety show hosted by renowned comedian Dana Austin sponsored by Karibu House Inc. Featuring local and regional talent.

Location: 1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway, Downtown Detroit (Across from Detroit Opera House in Grand Circus Park) Cost: TBA

Time: 8:30P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
Passion Fruit Festival | Erotic Slam, Open Mic & The ChillOut Lounge @ Midnight - A provocative experience of spoken word hosted by PicNap Poets Kalimah "Locmama"



Johnson and Johnny "Obadele" Jenkins, with smooth grooves by DJ Andre Royster of SoundCircle. Collective. Featuring open mic, and the first annual Passion Fruit Erotic Slam. At midnight we host a special presentation of the ChillOut Lounge Open Mic wsg. Slam fee is $10.00. Slam participation limited. $100.00 Grand Prize and special prizes. Top five slam finalist will compete at The Harmonie Park Exhibition

Time: 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
PINK ICE BREAKER VI "THE FINALE"
Sponsored by Pink Ice Productions. Featuring dance, music by local house DJ's, entertaiment and dance until dawn.

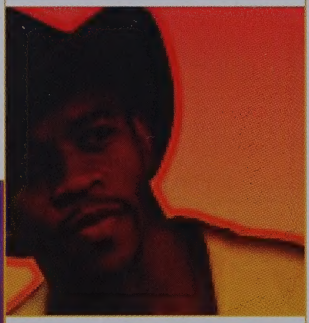
Location: Club Q , 141 W. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. For additional informationcontact via website or via email.
Cost: $15.00: Limited, discounted and advance tickets available via www.Ticketweb.com

Saturday, July 30th

Time: 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
GENESIS CONFERENCE VI
Brothers Saving Brothers 3.0
Facilitators: Amani Hall and Anthony Kilgore
Female Empowerment Through Writing
Facilitators: The Punany Poets

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Conference Center, 351 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, MI 48226 (in Harmonie Park btwn Greektown & Ford Field)
Cost: Free | Donations Accepted

Time: Noon to 7:00 P.M.
10th Annual Pride Picnic & the Ruth Ellis Pride Parade



Featuring entertainment, vendors, networking and fun. Karibu House host the annual Kid's Fair in the early afternoon; music provided by local area DJ's. Sponsored by the Ford Motor Company and the Human Rights Campaign.
Location: Palmer Park
Cost: Free

Time: 9:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.
The Punany Poets | The Head Doctor
Bring a love, a friend, a group or cum alone to witness The Head Doctor for the First Time in Detroit... In The Head Doctor... An interactive performance that will follow you to your dreams... and stay with you for a lifetime. The Punany Poets live, keeeping it Hotter than July with San Francisco's own For'Play Productions and DBGPride Inc... stand up and be counted in the Sexual Revolution on Everyone's lips... The Head Doctor...Unveiling the Erotic side of you!... in a performance of Poetry, Exotic Dance and theater as seen on HBO! Live! July 30, 2005 at 1515 Broadway --- Call (510) 835-2270 for Group Rates.

Location:
1515 Broadway Theater, 1515 Broadway, Downtown Detroit (Across the street from the Detroit Opera House)
Cost: $20.00

Time: 10:00 P.M. - Until
Strongarm Dress To Sweat
Annual rock hard, dressed to sweat summer blast. Featuring hip hop, R&B, House, Reggae and Soca. DJ line-up includes resident MC Kage with DJ Maestro (DET), DJ Reddawg (DET), DJ Unknown (NYC), DJ Cameron (NYC). Platinum VIP passes available to enter Strongarm's Muscle Lounge. Contact: Email

Location: The Tangent Gallery , 715 E. Milwaukee (btwn Oakman & Hastings, Midtown Detroit. For additional information. Contact: Email
Cost: TBA

Sunday, July 31st

Time: 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Jazz Jam & Brunch @ The Rhino on Harmonie Park

A special afternoon of smooth jazz and late Summer vibes. Featuring entertainment, refreshments and a great way to close out Detroit's 10th annual pride celebration.

Location: Rhino On The Park - Harmonie Park - Cost: $20.00

Time: 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Passion Fruit Festival | Harmonie Park Spoken Word Exhibition

A provocative outdoor exhibition of provocative spoken word presented by the host of Detroit's PicNap Poetry Series, Kalimah "locmoma" Johnson and Johnny "Obadele" Jenkins. Featuring the final round of the Passion Fruit Slam Competition with special performances and music by SoundCircle Collective. Contact via email.

Location: Harmonie Park, Downtown Detroit, Randolph & Gratiot Ave. near host hotel.
Cost: $5.00 Door | $10.00 Slam Entry

Time: 10:00 P.M. - 2:00 A.M.
Family Re:Union Afterglow
We invite everyone to join us for the official closing event. Featuring special guest, entertainment and artist.
Location: TBA Cost: TBA

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Hotter the July' POOL PARTY!

'a pool party like none other'

Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel

DETROIT DETROIT DETROIT

Sat Nite
SPECIAL CELEBRITY
GUEST HOST,,,KARMANO
(of MTV's Real World)

Friday July 29, 2005 - 11P

The Blaque Out Party

A Strongarm Strip Fest Featuring Dancers from Coast to Coast @

The Palladium

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THE BIGGEST, BADDEST,SEXIEST, HOTTEST PARTY
OF DETROIT'S Hotter Than July PRIDE WEEKEND!

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JULY 15 - 17, 2005
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and much, much more!
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$99*
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LABORDAY/2005 IN ATLANTA AUGUST 1-4TH

TRAXX

presents:

THE MAIN EVENT

DO TO OUR ABSENCE WE HAVE TRAINED THOROUGHLY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST INTENSE, INTERGRATING, DRAMATIC EVENTS OF ALL TIMES...BELIEVE US WHEN WE SAY (THE MAIN EVENT) CUMING TO U IN THE ATL.

SATURDAY TRAXX PRESENTS:

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" PREPARE TO GO 10 ROUNDS "

FIRST EVER MAJOR POOL PARTY INSIDE A CLUB
W/ 2 POOLS • 3 STAGES
6 DJs • HIP- HOP DJ • HOUSE DJ • REGGAE DJ

CONTENDER PARTY

MONDAY: HELD AT PIEDMONT PARK
J-SETTE CONTEST • FREE PICNIC PARK
CUM EAT FREE

THE TKO PARTY

THUGGED OUT TUESDAY
THE NIGHT THAT'S REMAIN UNDEFEATED
WITH THE HELP OF ATLIENS

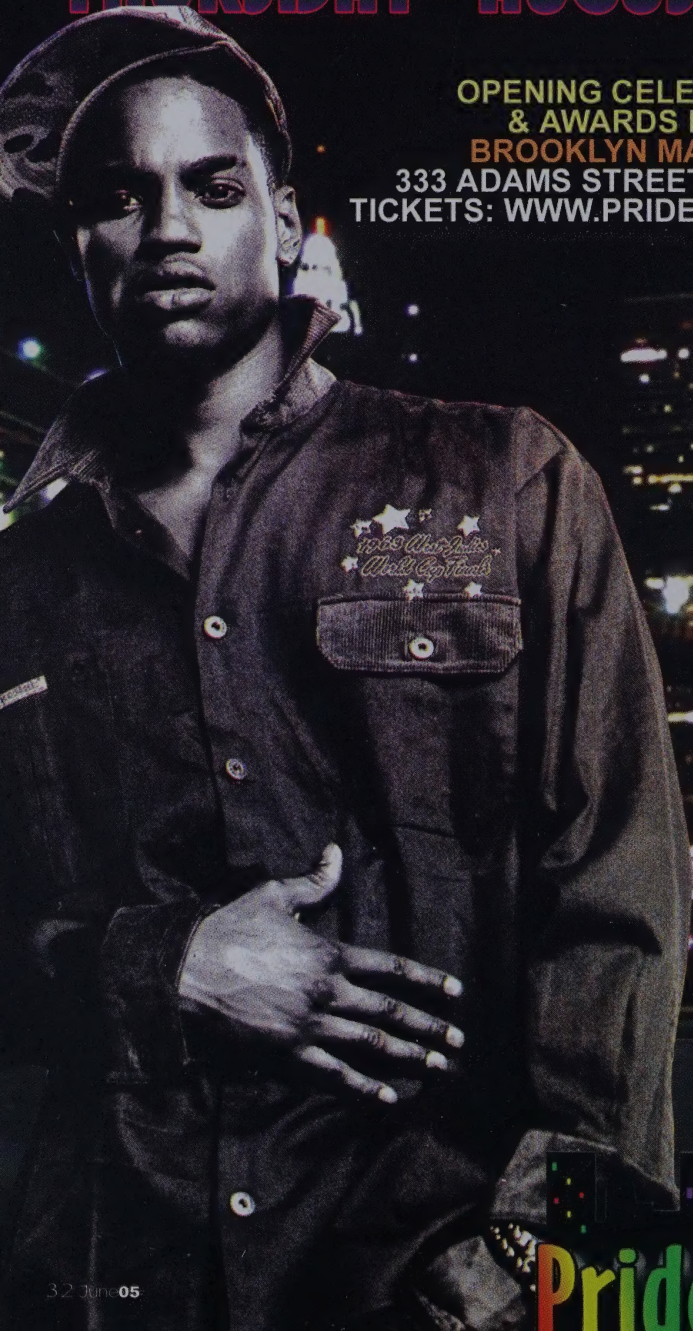
PEOPLE OF COLOR IN CRISIS INC.

PRESENTS

PRIDE IN THE CITY 2005

THURSDAY - AUGUST 4

OPENING CELEBRATION
& AWARDS NIGHT
BROOKLYN MARRIOTT
333 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN
TICKETS: WWW.PRIDEINTHECITY.COM



Pride IN THE CITY

FRIDAY - AUGUST 5

OFFICIAL KICK-OFF PARTY
LANGSTONS
ATLANTIC AVENUE, BROOKLYN
11 PM UNTIL
BLACKOUT ARTS SERIES
BROOKLYN MARRIOTT HOTEL
5 PM TO 11 PM

OFFICIAL WOMEN'S
PRIDE IN THE CITY PARTY
TO BE ANNOUNCED
HOSTED BY LOVERGIRLNYC
AND EXCLUSIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY - AUGUST 6

FAMILY DAY PICNIC IN THE PARK
Bring your blankets!
COMMODORE BARRY PARK
DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN
DIRECTIONS: WWW.PRIDEINTHECITY.COM

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STRANGE FRUIT
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OFFICIAL WOMEN'S
PRIDE IN THE CITY PARTY
CLUB SHELTER - 2 LEVELS OF
MAJOR MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
20 WEST 39TH STREET (BET. 5TH & 6TH A
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OFFICIAL MEN'S
PRIDE IN THE CITY PARTY
"NATHAN PRESENTS"
WWW.PRIDEINTHECITY.COM

SUNDAY- AUGUST 6
THE BEACH EVENT

Bring your blankets!
JACOB RIIS PARK BEACH
FAR ROCKAWAY, QUEENS
DIRECTIONS:WWW.PRIDEINTHECITY.COM

2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

ifbp International Federation of Black Prides

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

APRIL

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE

APRIL 21-24, 2005
www.phillyblackpride.org
610-284-1927
SEE PAGE 15 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

MAY

HOUSTON SPLASH*

MAY 4TH-9TH, 2005
www.houstonsplash.com

SIZZLE MIAMI*

MAY 26TH-30TH, 2005
www.sizzle2005.com
305-528-7495
SEE PAGE 18 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE

JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
312-986-0661
www.thewindycitypride.org
SEE PAGE 25 & 28 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

TAMPA, FL
CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE

July 14-17, 2005
(813) 873-1888
Riccrollins@aol.com
lorenz762@aol.com
www.floridablackpride.net
SEE PAGE 27 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE

JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
WEB: www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
BlackOut Unlimited
(216) 937-2268
.blackoutunlimited.org

BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY

AUGUST 5 -7, 2005
78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

July 14-17, 2005

"A New Day"

www.charlottencblackgaypride.com

Thursday July 14th
Townhall Meeting
Sponsored by the NBLcoalition.org
@ Lesbian and Gay Community Center
1401 Central Ave

FRIDAY
July 15th

6pm
Pre-Show Meet & Greet
7pm
Theater Noir
Featuring **Adodi Muse**
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.

10pm
A New Day Pride Party
Featuring **YahZarah**
@ Club 6101
6101 Wilkinson BLVD.
Charlotte, NC

SATURDAY
July 16th

10am - 6pm
Black Gay Pride Expo
FREE!
@ Spirit Square
7th & College
Downtown Charlotte

10pm
A New Day Pride Party II
w/ Special Guest **Jacki-O**
@ Club 6101
6101 Wilkinson BLVD.
Charlotte, NC

SUNDAY
July 17th

4pm
Interfaith Service
Service Lead by
Pastor Roger Hayes
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.
Charlotte, NC

8pm
The Return of Organik Funk
Spoken Word & Open Mic Event
@ CAST Theater
1118 Clement Ave.
Charlotte, NC

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

ifbp International Federation of Black Prides

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

ITLA IN THE LIFE ATLANTA CELEBRATING THE BLACK LESBIAN·GAY BISEXUAL·TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2005
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
(404) 872-6410
info@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com
SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.

black gay PRIDE baltimore

OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

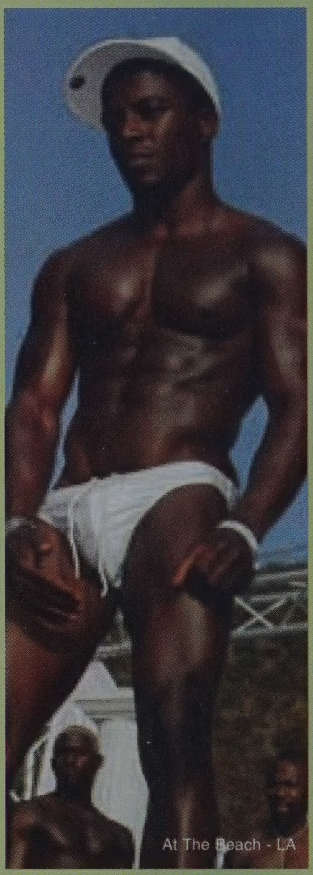
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

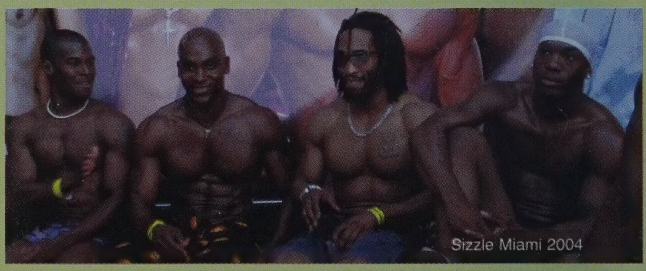
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
(615) 259-4866 Ext. 269
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005


At The Beach - LA


Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time

Designed by Thierry Jones 404-691-9270

THE LIONS DEN
2005 MEGA PARTY
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Friday, September 2, 2005

THE WELCOME TO ATLANTA

2005 MEGA PARTY WEEKEND KICKOFF RECEPTION

@ Sheraton Buckhead

6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Meet and Greet ATL's finest.

Saturday, September 3, 2005

THE LIONS DEN PRESENTS...

THE 2005 WET DREAM POOL PARTY

@ Sheraton Buckhead

Featuring the hottest fashions for 2005
and a special guest host and performer

Sunday, September 4, 2005

THE LIONS DEN PRESENTS...

THE 2005 EARTHQUAKE PARTY

Guess who's performing at this year's event.
Be sure to pick the August 2005 Edition of Clikque
for The Lion's Den 2005 Artist Line up.
Music By: The Legendary DJ Sedrick and DJ Truz (Hot 107.9)
And Featuring the hot and sexy Lion's Den Boyz In The Flesh

Monday, September 5, 2005

THE LIONS DEN PRESENTS...

THE PLEASURE DOME

@ Compound, 1008 Brady Ave. NW,
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www.compoundatl.com

HOST HOTEL ONLY $79 *per night*

The Sheraton Buckhead Hotel
3405 Lenox Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30326
Reservation Line: (404) 261-9250
www.sheraton.com/buckhead

Reservation Code: Lions Den

www.thelionsdenatlanta.com - Info Hot Line: 770-991-6929

layout/design: www.emdesignsgroup.com
photos: www.brotherloveimages.com

Maxine Blue Productions presents:
Black Pride Atlanta
with the Diva
Wednesday: Stripper Showdown @ Club Imperial
Thursday: All For One Night @ CoCo LoCo
Friday: Hot Papi Night @ The Chaparral
Saturday: Grown Folks Party @ Knights Hall
Sunday: Ledgendary Hip Hop Night @ The Chaparr
Holiday Inn
HOTELS · RESORTS
www.holiday-inn.com
Host hotel for the upscale! $79 a night
must book by August 23rd.
Ask for pride rate (678)686-0416

For the First Time Ever, Gay Americans Have a Home on Television Just for Them

A Place Where They Can See Themselves and Be Themselves

Logo, MTVN's new ad-supported basic cable channel for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) audience, launches June 30 with more than one thousand hours of programming content and in approximately 10 million homes across the United States. Programmed with a mix of original and acquired entertainment that is authentic, smart and inclusive, Logo features more than 200 lesbian- and gay-themed feature films, an ongoing documentary series, newscasts tailored for the gay and lesbian community and quality original shows and specials.

As a place where the LGBT viewers can see themselves and be themselves, Logo has assembled an extensive library of premier film titles from every major studio and every influential independent, including HBO's Emmy Award-winning Angels in America, Mulholland, Drive, Kissing Jessica Stein, High Art, Philadelphia, Moulin Rouge, Billy Elliott, Latter Days, Far from Heaven, A Home at the End of the World, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, The Birdcage, Six Degrees of Separation and Fried Green Tomatoes. Logo also features a news partnership with CBS News and original co-branded content from LPI Media's category-leading titles The Advocate, Out and The Out Traveler. The network also showcases an ongoing original documentary series, Momentum, focusing on the variety of distinct and different lives within the LGBT community, from a gay rugby team and gay rappers to lesbian surfers and gay Latinos.

The network is home to strong original series, including: Noah's Arc, a scripted comedy-drama series based on the web phenomenon following struggling screenwriter Noah, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends;

"DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF, "GET IN THE ZONE WITH OZONENTERTAINMENT."
OZONENTERTAINMENT
THE SEXIEST LABOR DAY LINE-UP IN THE ATL
Thursday, Sept. 1st
Xtasy Thursday
"LIVE ENTERTAINMENT"
with Host MS. SOPHIA MCINTOSH (V-103 Personality)
PHASE ONE 4933 MEMORIAL DR. DECATUR, GA
Friday, Sept. 2nd
MANHUNT FRIDAY
"BOIZ PEEPIN BOIZ NIGHT OUT"
with Host MC BUSTA LUV & DJ TRUZ
CLUB TOWER II 735 Ralph McGill Blvd. ATLANTA, GA
Monday, Sept. 5th
2ND ANNUAL EXOTIC DANCER COMPETITION
LABOR DAY
$2,000 CASH – GRAND PRIZE
DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?
MODEL SEARCH FOR
OZONE 2005 – 2006 CALENDAR
DUE OUT SEPTEMBER 2005
For More Info:: 678.296.0678 - Outside Atlanta: 1.866.35ozone
Web site: www.ozonentertainment.com - Email: Ozonent@aol.com
Designed by Jhierry Jones: 770 572 1100

Noah's Arc, a scripted comedy-drama series based on the web phenomenon following struggling screenwriter Noah, an African-American gay man navigating love and life in Los Angeles with his three best friends

Open Bar, an original reality series following one man's coming out process as he works to open a West Hollywood gay bar; Round Trip Ticket, a globe-trotting travel show; The Ride, a first-person look at some of the participants traveling the 585 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the annual AIDS/Lifecycle fundraiser; and First Comes Love, a comedy/reality series from Canada hosted by actor/comedian Scott Thompson (Kids in the Hall) who has to fulfill the wedding dreams of gay and lesbian couples in just two weeks.

On July 24, the network presents the first-ever telecast of the GLAAD Media Awards, featuring Billy Crystal, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming, Marcia Cross, Felicity Huffman, Margaret Cho, Liza Minnelli and John Stamos, among others. Building up to the airing of The 16th Annual GLAAD Media Awards, Logo will present a week-long tribute to the Media Awards and past award recipients and an original, accompanying documentary, Logo will present profiles of GLAAD's past winners; previously honored films and documentaries; and interstitial interviews with actors, filmmakers and cultural commentators.

MTV Networks, a division of Viacom International Inc. (NYSE: VIA, VIA.B), owns and operates the following television programming services -- MTV: MUSIC TELEVISION, MTV2, VH1, MTVU, NICKELODEON, NICK AT NITE, COMEDY CENTRAL, TV LAND, SPIKE TV, CMT, THE N, NOGGIN, MTV INTERNATIONAL, LOGO and THE DIGITAL SUITE FROM MTV NETWORKS, a package of 13 digital services, all of which are trademarks of MTV Networks. MTV Networks also has licensing agreements, joint ventures, and syndication deals whereby all of its programming services can be seen worldwide.

BY: TUAN N' GAI OF BIAZO MINISTRIES

The TRUTH About Sodom & Gomorrah

Part I

Reference Scripture:
Genesis 18:20 - 19:29

What can be said about Sodom and Gomorrah that hasn't already been said? We know that God destroyed the two large cities. And we know that if a loving God destroyed them, they must have been in such a horrible spiritual state, that He could no longer withhold justice, and He had to take judgmental action. God HAD to destroy them. But why?

Certainly you've heard that it was because of "inhospitality to strangers" or because of their "blatantly homosexuality". And who knows what else is floating out there as justification for these two cities' destruction? The purpose of TAKING A CLOSER LOOK is to discover the truth. Why should we delve deeper to find out something other than what we've been taught? Because believe it or not, the knowledge of the truth about Sodom and Gomorrah has very important spiritual applications to ALL people. There are so many questions that are left unanswered with the "old school" teaching of this story.

Was there ONE definitive reason, or were there many reasons?
Were they destroyed for homosexuality or inhospitality?
Was idol worship a factor?
Did the "men" of the city really want to have sex with the visiting angels?
And more relevant to today, if God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for homosexuality, will He also destroy our society?

These questions and many more plague the minds of so many people. And since we are seeking answers about a Biblical account, why not consult the very place where we've been taught in error? The Bible. We must be mindful that the truth is not in just the letter of the Word, but in the spirit of the word. The truth about Sodom and Gomorrah can only be revealed by careful study and the proper life application of it's spiritual truths.

Traditionally, we have been taught that the Biblical cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for "homosexuality" and other "perverted sexual behavior". That just may have had a part to play in the destruction of the two cities. But I submit to you that this is not the only or premier reason for it, if it had a part to play in it at all. Let's just deal with the text shall we? As the story goes in Genesis 19:1-11, two angels arrived at Sodom at night, and Lot was the one sitting at the gate of the city. He bowed before them and asked them to stay at his house to wash their feet and spend the night (which was common custom in those days when dealing with strangers. It was a show of good hospitality). When they refused, he insisted that they go to his house and he prepared a meal for them.

Before they all tore it down for the night, all the "men" from every part of the city came and bum rushed the house, asking about the two. The crowd insisted that they be brought out so that they could "know" or have sex with them. Lot goes out and pleads with these "men" not to do this wicked thing, and asks them to take his daughters and have their way with them. The "men" of the city pressed their way and accused Lot of trying to be "all that" when he was just a stranger in their city himself. They threatened to do worse to him than they would do to the angels if they weren't brought out to them. It got so bad, the "men" tried to break down the door. But luckily, the angels had Lot's back and pulled him back inside the house and struck all SODOM AND GOMORRAH the "men" outside with blindness so they couldn't find the door (paraphrasing mine).

Now this is tha deal..if you are gonna study scripture, you need to study it in its proper context and with the right spirit. You can't be trying to prove a point or be "theologically correct" in a debate. You have to be searching the heart and mind of God for the truth that He placed in His Word so you can properly use it to help yourself, and to help others. The Bible says, "All scripture is God breathed, and is

useful for teaching, rebuking, correction, and training in righteousness" (II Timothy 3.16). Nowhere is "abuse" and "used for debate and political gain" mentioned. The Word, even when used in rebuke or discipline, is meant to edify or build people up and not tear them down. With that being said, it is important to realize that the Old Testament was originally written in Aramaic or Hebrew. And the New Testament was written in Greek. And to properly ascertain the true meaning and spirit of the text you must go back to the original language. In doing so, I believe God will guide you into the truth of His Word. Let me break it down to you on tha real.

The angels came into the city and Lot was sitting at the gate (that's what the scripture says). And when they approached him, he bowed before them and invited them into his home thus offering them proper hospitality (which was common in that time period). After they all ate dinner and were about to go to bed, the "men" from every corner of the city surrounded Lot's house insisting that he bring the two angels out.

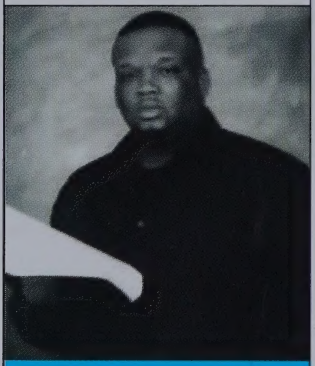
Now, the Hebrew word for "men" in this particular text is "enowsh", defined "mortals (as in Adam); humanity; people; congregation; male and female" not just "males" as with the Hebrew word "iysh," as some would like you to believe. The people wanted to "know" the men (or angels). Now, this is the tricky part. The Hebrew word for "know" is "yada", meaning to properly ascertain by seeing; observing or reflecting; or to know by experiencing. And in this text, there is no differentiation. The Bible, in this particular text, does not say either/or. So one cannot logically, or correctly say that the male population of Sodom wanted to "have sex" with the angels as traditionally thought. We might also add that in the Bible, the Hebrew word "yada", meaning "to know" is used 943 times. Of those times, only 10 have a sexual connotation. Therefore, the likelihood of it having a sexual meaning in this text is very slim.

This is where the debate comes in. One school of thought uses the fact that Lot offered his daughters to the crowd and pleads with them to have their way, but not to do "this wicked thing" to the men as proof that their intent was to have sex. Another school says that the daughters or women were "property" (like women were in that time), and he was offering them as slaves to the crowd. When in all actuality, Lot could have become wealthy by receiving "dowries (or money)" for his daughters when their hand was asked in marriage. One school of thought says the "men (meaning males)" of the city were sex perverts and sought after the men with lustful intent. Another says that the men were trying to figure out if these "men" were spies who knew Lot, and wanted to make sure they weren't in the city to try to take over. There are other issues that can be introduced and addressed here. Like the fact that when the men of the city were victorious in war or in a conquest, they would often beat and rape the men they defeated as to exercise ultimate dominion over them. Thus making them no more important or valuable to society than women or "property". This was a humiliating and emasculating experience for any man to endure.

Let me also throw in that in that time, common practice was to question visitors about their journey and their intent as to determine if they were spies and if they were trying to take the city by force. The "men" of the city were keepers of the cities in which they lived and were responsible for it's protection. And the arguments go on, and on, and on, and on, and on. Nobody really cares that the Bible explicitly SAYS why Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed. Check this out...

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. (Ezekiel 16.49-50)

Now, as I said before, sexual perversion and other behavior may have been part of the reason Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed. If it was, it wasn't the ONLY thing that brought on the destruction. And if you really STUDY the Word, you will remember that God was already gonna destroy the cities BEFORE the angels even got there. The truth about Sodom and Gomorrah is, GOD JUDGES SIN (anything causing spiritual separation from God)!!! God allowed that story to be printed in the Bible to teach us that inhospitality to our fellow man, idolatry, and violence are sins that make Him sick, and they bring about the destruction of ANY people. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a warning to all of us that how we treat others is important to God in that He made us all, and wants us to live in harmony.



Tuan N'Gai was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas where he was groomed from an early age to fulfill the call to ministry on his life. He is an Ordained Evangelist, and the Founder of Biazo Ministries, an affiliate ministry of Church of the Full Covenant. He is the former Associate Pastor of Administration and one of the Co-Founders of Living Faith Covenant Church in Dallas, Texas. He is also a celebrated speaker, workshop facilitator, worship leader, song writer, poet, and choral conductor.

Tuan is the acclaimed author and publisher of the controversial book "Will I Go To Heaven? The Black Gay Spiritual Dilemma". The book has been distributed internationally, and has afforded Tuan the opportunity to travel extensively spreading the message of God's unconditional, all-inclusive love. He has been a featured guest on Black Entertainment Television's premier talk show "Oh Drama!", heard on radio talk shows across the country, and reviewed in nationally known publications.

SIZZLE 2005™ Pictorial Review

See Why Miami Has Been The Hot Spot During Memorial Day Weekend For The Past Four Years

PHOTOS BY JERRY BOLES

If you were there, rumor has it that you experienced the time of you life. And if you weren't, rumor has it that you regretted going elsewhere.

This year, Sizzle has again proven itself as America's superior black gay circuit event ever. But don't just take our word for it, here's what some participants had to say about Sizzle 2005:

I must confess that I was compelled to respond to your Sizzle recap. I have attended numerous major events all across the country that cater specifically to the Black alternative community and by far this is one of the most organized and professionally executed events.

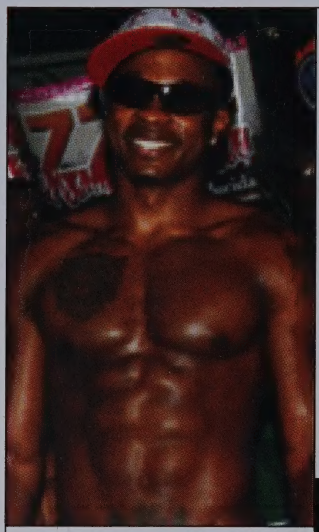
Hey Dwight. Your event this year overall was the bomb man. You and your team put this together. All the other cities including my home town ATL have to step up to the plate now because you and your team raised the bar. Sizzle

2005 was off the chain. I've attended black pride in various big cities since the late 80s, from DC, ATL, LA, Phili etc but Miami is the best due to your good work. Much love to you my brother and keep up the good work. Keep raising the bar on the other cities that host Black Pride. Good job. God bless. Peace and love to you and yours. - *Shingai Hillary*

Often times we as black people can't congregate and enjoy each others company without a major altercation. That was definitely not the case in Miami. The Sizzle Staff was very professional and attended to the patrons request accordingly. They were very prompt with the shuttles and provided very hospitable service consistently. I can truly say that my time and money was spent on a very good event and will definitely not miss Sizzle 2006. - Best Regards *Rob Johnson*

I'm still recooperating. Very well put together. – *Stanley Adams* of Detroit

Dwight, First let me say that this event was very well planned and put together. I cant imagine that anyone did not have



a good time at Sizzle. The DC crew have already made our hotel reservations for 2006. You know that Memorial Day was Pride in DC and many who remained wished that they were at Sizzle. I think that the cruise idea and beach event for 2006 would be a great idea. Already looking forward and will spread the word about Sizzle 2006 here in DC. - *Thomas Scott* of DC

Thanks for a great weekend. I'm having "Sizzle" withdrawal. Hotel and venues were great. This was well organized. Even the quality of the promotional material and the welcome pack information was top notch - *Greg B*

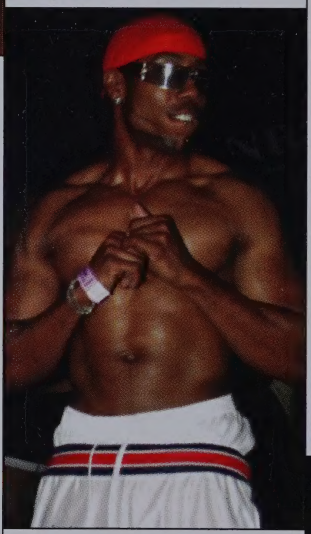
Dude, I had a f@#king blast. Enjoyed every minute. To bad u can't change the weekend to have the pride so a brotha can get there and puerto rico. So, i guess next year i will just have to miss out. 4sho I will return the year after next year. — *Mario Howell*

THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! THANK YOU!!!! MR.POWELL for the Sizzle 05 was my very first trip to Miami, i'm usually in DC for Memorial Day Weekend, I'm pleased to let you know that i really really enjoyed myself. All the club venues where very nice,the Dee Jays were all off the hook,the strippers where off the chains, but most of all i really love the prestigeness of my VIP card man walking straight into the party while 500 or more people were standing in line was very very smooth.Thanks man and in reguards to next year improvements i would love to do the cruise thing if it jump off put me first on the list<wink>.Thanks again man i really really needed "Sizzle 05" may

God bless you and all your staff,sponsors and all that worked so hard on "Sizzle 05" job well done. - *TYRONE PATTERSON*

dwight, thank you for taking time out to organize such a great weekend for the black and latino gay community. my friends and my self had an extremely good time. your choice of participating clubs for the event were upscale and decent. I can't wait for sizzle 2006 the cruise is an excellent idea. - *Martice* of Baltimore

Sizzle was off da chain again my second year I attended. Each year I have attended I brout 4 - 6 new people fro the west coast. Good job dwight. Awesome events well organized. Quality people hanging out. - *Garry Rolando*



Hey Dwight, this bongane here, brotha, brotha you sure showed up and showed off. From your drivers on the shuttles buses to Robert's staff in the registration table for picking up vip cards everyone was treated us with highest respect. *Bongane Nyathi* from South Africa

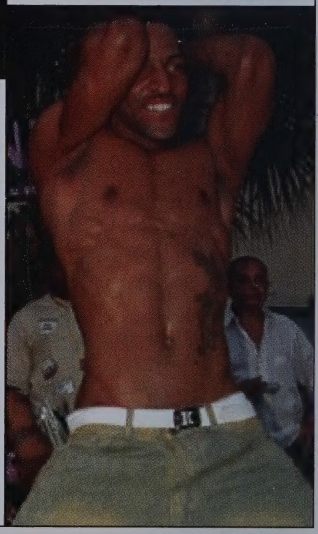
I want to express my sincerest thank you on Sizzle2005. This was my first time attending this event and I had a blast. I couldn't get over how many straight looking brothers were at this event. I enjoyed everything.... I really really really enjoyed myself and I am looking forward to next year. Please keep up the good work. - Sincerely, *Patrick* from New Orleans

Dwight. I wish to send KUDOS to you and your staff for such an outstanding production over the holiday weekend. Particular "shout out" goes to Robert; who made our group in attendance feel like we knew him on a personal level. I can only imagine the amount of time, energy, and resources required to successfully complete such an undertaking....You and your staff made it look effortless.....As a fan and collector of your magazine I truly wish you continued success with all that you do....Thanks Again for a fabulous weekend - *Robert*

This was my first time there for this event, and I must say that all the events were well organized and lots of fun. All the hard work that you guys put into planning the events was very evident and paid off. Thanks for the great work that you all do and I hope to be back for Sizzle 2006. – *Rondell*, Brooklyn, NY

Dwight, I would like to personally thank you and your staff for all that you did. I have been attending your well organized events for now three years and even have booked my hotel reservations and vacation around them. Words can not describe or express the time that I had this year and years past. It was 'A DEAL MUCHO'! I look forward to next year and many years to come. Congratulations and thank you again! - Forever SIZZLE GROUPEE, *RMC879*

Being from Miami I had no clue of Sizzle until last year. My best friend and I vowed that we will do the Sizzle

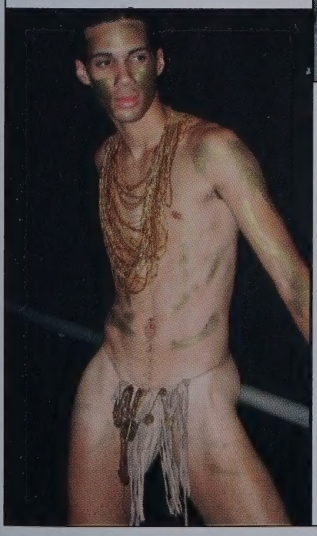


experience this year. Thank you , thank you , thank you for hosting such an event. It was the bomb to say the least, I felt like I was on vacation. I met some great new friends and my eyes were definitely please, had no idea how fine black gay men could be.

Next year my best friend and I will do it all over again. Only thing I am adding are the various forums you held, which I did not have the pleasure of attending.Great job Mr. Powell and your team!! See you next year! - *Angeljav748*

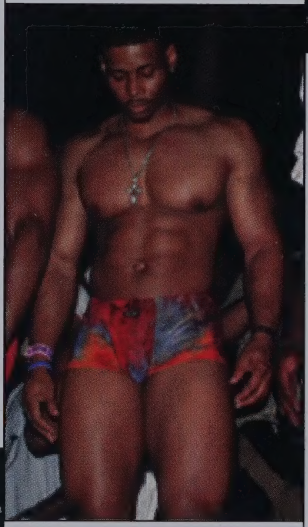
Mr Powell, a special thanks to you and your Sizzle staff. I reside in Memphis, Tn and I must say that every activity that I attended was an enjoyable one. I look forward to the upcoming Sizzle activities and greatly anticipate more venues such as the ones you have mentioned in your correspondence. I am personally interested in seeing Sizzle become one of the most recognized Black Gay Pride events in America. You have access to one of the most beautiful and well-traveled cities in the world. And to utilize every aspect of your city would be most advantageous for Sizzle's participants. What you mentioned as "upscaled events" are what I see as informative and well-rounded socials. As well, I feel that those ideas will definitely put Sizzle in a class of its own and become even more desirable. This was my first Sizzle but not my last. Hats-off to the Sizzle committee and I look forward to next year's even more sizzlin' Sizzle... Sincerely, *Juan Royston* in Memphis

Dwight! Thanks for providing a weekend that I'll neva forget!...You guys



went above and beyond to put on a first class event that put the others to shame... Rodney Brenneman of Detroit

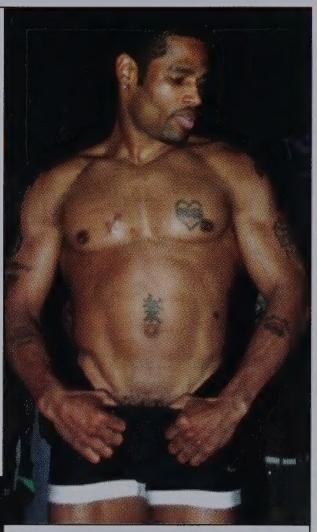
Dwight & Robert: I just want to take this time to express my feelings and excitement on how much fun my friends and I had at Sizzle. Sine the first one I have continued to invite more people and we are so impressed about all that was done and coordinated. The shuttles were awesome and the clubs were really great. Especially the fact that they were all so close to the hotel. Of course as a VIP I cannot express how well that we are treated. My friends who did not have VIP this year will certainly be getting the VIP card next year. Robert, we enjoyed your hospitality and making sure we were all OK. Keep doing what you all are doing: There are some who really do



appreciate all that you all do for us. *Darren* of Atlanta

I must say that the most fun at sizzle2005. I was also a VIP holder and I have never seen anything so organized. I have been to events with VIP passes and it was a horrible experience. The venue for the first night was magnificent. Hope that venue is in the selection. I really do hope you can get some party on south beach. I am looking forward to next year. Keep up the good work and communications you send out. Peace my brother – *Wayman Miles*

I must say, Sizzle 2005 surpassed any weekend party event I've ever been to. Everything, from the website



to the events and parties, was well organized and drama free. As far as I can tell, everyone had a great time. You and your crew certainly deserve an applause to a job outstandingly done! Congratulations, Dwight, and good luck with your future endeavors. Sincerely, *Donato C. Clarke* (Nate)

Thanks guys for the time of my life,me and my friends had a ball. I loved the organization, the parties,the shuttle, the hospitality center and all,ya'll are just awesome. Definitely count us in for next year. - *Hudson.*

Dwight, I have to say that you pulled it together! Miami was TIGHT! Thanks for giving brothers a great celebration! See ya next year, - *Andre and Rudy*

hey dwight, just wanted to let you know that as a first time participant from washington dc, sizzle2005 was off the hook. the planning, coordination and accommodations were the bomb. my friends and i are looking forward to sizzle2006. *Carlton Bryant*

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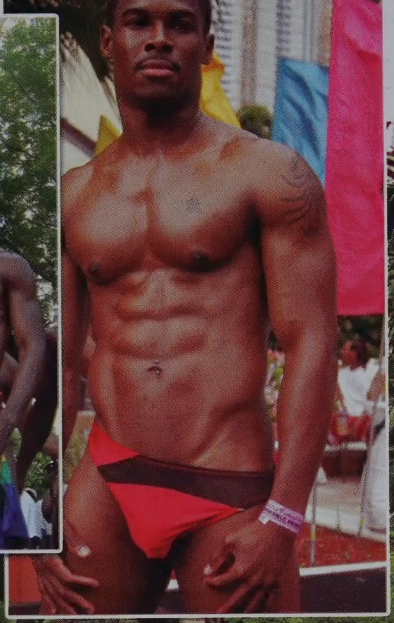
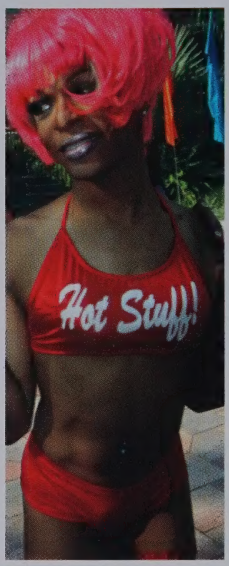
- The National Black Justice Coalition
- HX Magazine
- Clikque Magazine



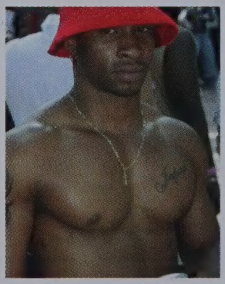
Sexy Underwear provided by ***erogenos.com***

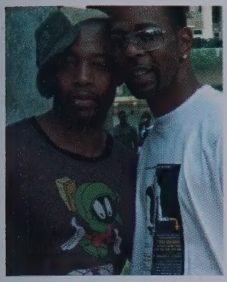

Hot Stuff!

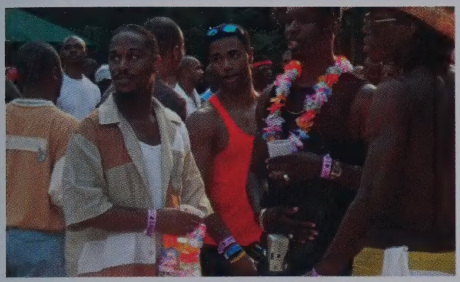
G-unit

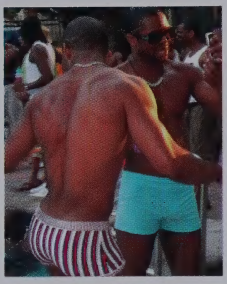
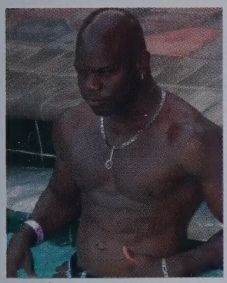
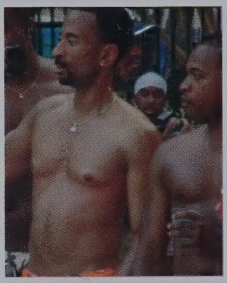
HEAT
32

Pioneer







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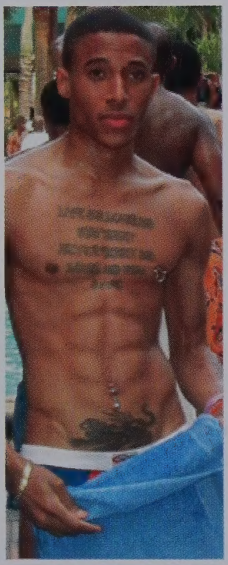

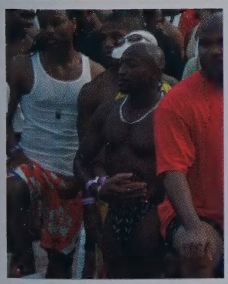

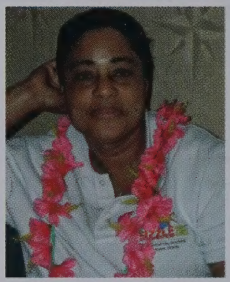

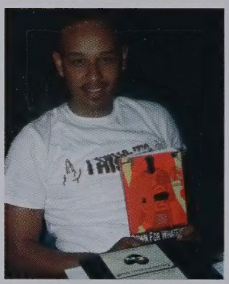

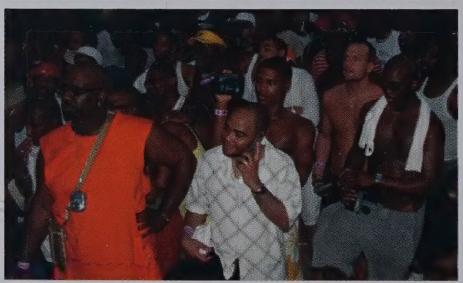
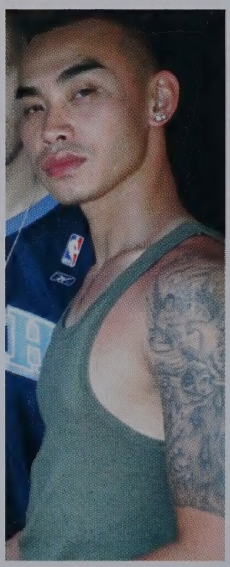
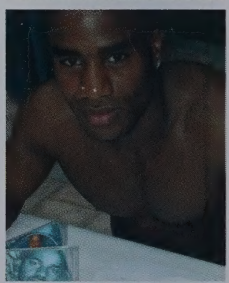

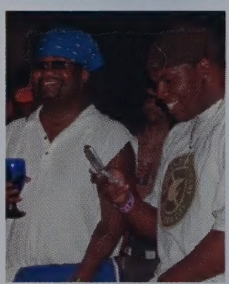

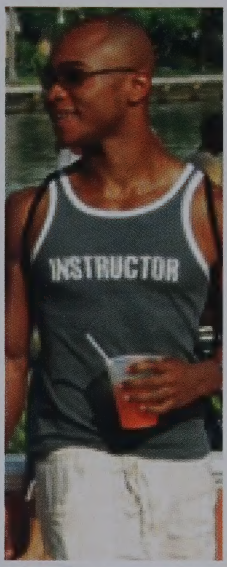
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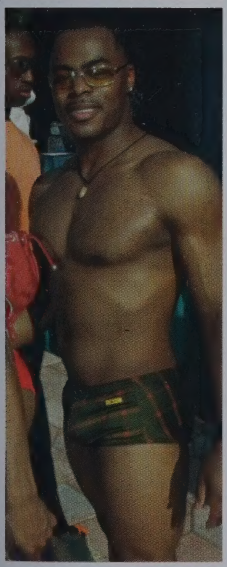

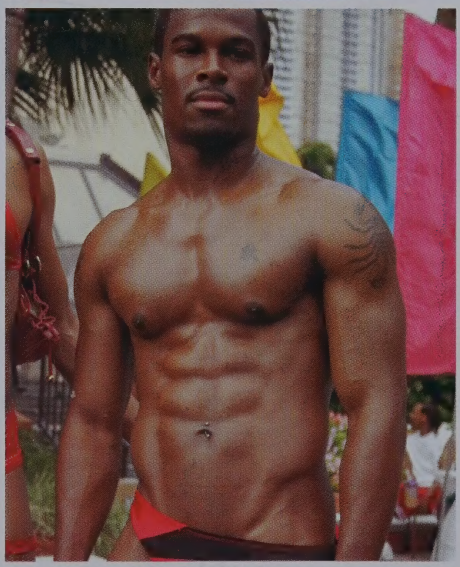

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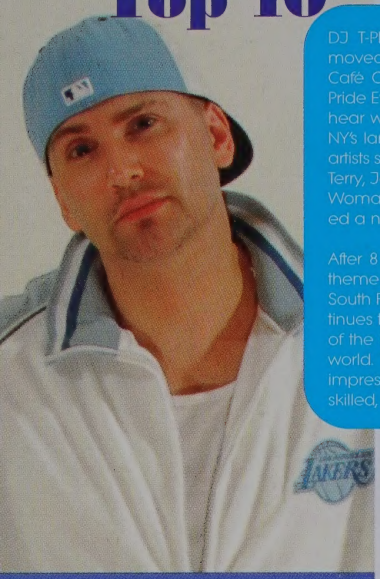
T-Pro's Top 10



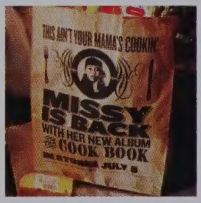
DJ T-PRO in his earlier years played as resident DJ to DC's largest club. He later moved to New York playing famous clubs like the legendary Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Café Con Leche, Octagon, Warehouse, Cheetah, Escuelita, Exit and the HotBoyz. Pride Events featuring Mary J. Blige and Lil Kim. Mixing up the beats people want to hear with the ones they need to hear, he soon became a most requested DJ at NY's largest venues. This amazing DJ has also produced/remixed tracks for many artists such as Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, EPMD, KRS-One, Eric B & Rakim Todd Terry, Jellybean Benitez, Arthur Baker, Kristine W and yes, even humorously, Wonder Woman. Finding an even larger following with each mix under his belt T-PRO started a notorious lil party called "MILK".

After 8 years MILK closed its doors making history as one of the longest running theme parties in New York history. Now living in sunny Miami and a Resident DJ at South Florida's Largest College Night COLISEUM Fridays in Ft. Lauderdale, T-PRO continues to DJ once a month at SPLASH in NYC and even finds time to produce some of the best Club visuals ever seen and enjoyed for Nightclub Clients all over the world. T-PRO shows even the seasoned DJ that there is always a new way to impress and improve. Yes, the first Multimedia DJ has landed! Well mannered, well skilled, well loved, and well, just plain cute.

1. I Just Want It 2 Be Over — KEYSHA COLE — A&M
2. Selfish — FANTASI f/ Missy Elliott — J RECORDS
3. Make Her Feel Good — TIARRA MARIE f/ Jay Z — ROCK-A-FELLA
4. Loose Control — MISSY ELLIOT — ATLANTIC
5. Welcome 2 Crunkrock — LIL JON REMIX — WHITE
6. To The Floor — MARIAH CAREY f/Nelly — COLUMBIA
7. Pon De Replay — RHIANNA — SONY
8. Damn — 112 — DEF-JAM
9. That's What I'm Talkin Bout — AMERIE — SONY
10. Don't Ya Wish Ya Girlfrind — PUSSY CAT DOLLS f/Busta — PD

MISSY ELLIOT,

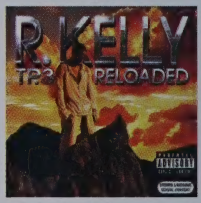
THE COOKBOOK, - in stores July 5



By now u have heard "Loose Control" and are feeling the 80's Cybertron sample...but stop breakin' 4 a second and listen up. Missy is joined by; Tweet, Ciara, Fatman Scoop, The Neptunes, Mike Jones, Pharell, Slick Rick, and Grand Puba. There is something 4 everyone...with tracks like "Mami", "4 My Man" (lol), "Juicy", and "Irresistible Delicious". According 2 Elliot herself in a recent interview "I really do think this is my best album...I played Lil' Kim the album the other day and she told me it was incredible and that there was not one song on it that she didn't like". This 2 Disc set includes DVD features on the second disc (though I have not received that version of the promo, shady labels....ha) Yet I have 2 agree with Kim and give my sis Missy the highest rating of (10T).

R KELLY,

TP.3 RELOADED, in stores July 5th



Michael Jackson got off (pun intended, lol), does that mean R will 2? Until his case comes thru, he is putting all the scandals on CD. This is how it goes "Trapped In The Closet" chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (he's carrying on). R takes this girl home 2 her house, has sex, falls asleep and gags that he is waking up the next morning still in her house. Remembering his WIFE he freaks and rushes 2 get dressed only 2 find that the woman is also married and the husband is coming up the stairs. He has nowhere 2 hide but in the closet. The man hears R's cell phone go off and starts 2 open the door. R pulls a gun.....Ok, pt. 2 they confront each other...threats, blah blah blah....someone rings the bell right before r shoots.....Ok, pt 3....The husband has a secret 2...HIS MAN IS COMING UP THE STAIRS....mmmhmmmm, and supposedly in the video this part is played by Trey Songz. If it only it were tru, that is one fyne boy, I wish he was Gay, he can call 866-TPRO...just kidding...but seriously, if the CD is any part as good as this

At the end of each review, T-Pro rates each album by giving T points of 1 thru 10. 10 being Tight/Awesome and 1 being Wack

CLUB SHOT OF THE WEEK

pre-release, JAY-Z honey, u can't deny, R Kelly Is one talented singer songwriter.(9T)

KEYSHA COLE,

THE WAY IT IS, in stores now

Hot, Hot, Hot new CD from Diva Keysha. Her sultry voice will take u into R&B heaven with the luscious Quincy Jones Style Ballad "We Could Be", and although I do not recommend cheating, the track "I Should've Cheated" was quite a read 2 some boyfriend she had. Other Tracks I Liked were the Kanye West produced "I Changed My Mind", "Situations" and of course the biggest hit at Sizzle 2005 "I Just Want It 2 Be Over". I can definitely promise u won't want this disc or her career 2 be over anytime soon. (8T)

BLACK EYED PEAS,

MONKEY BUSINESS, in stores now

Ok, This one is a lil silly and that is a good thing. It is a brilliant album in which reggae, rock, pop and hip hop influences r all mashed together on tracks that sound like they wrote em in high school (also a good thing, because high school was fun). So if u wanna take a ride outside of the same old Hip Hop boredom...try "My Humps" with it's hilarious references to the Junk Up In yo Trunk, or "Dum Diddly" which is incredible fusion of pop and dancehall that only Nelly Furtado or Gwen Stefani have done so successfully b4. Other highlights include "Bebot", "Like That" and "Don't Lie". Monkey Business is just that, funky monkey business messin with the music business. (8T)

YIN YANG TWINS,

U.S.A. UNITED STATE OF ATLANTA, in stores June 28th

After hearing Free, Missy, Busta, Jackie O and just about everybody else freestyle over this past winters big hit "Wait" I had hoped there were more surprises on this disc than on their last CD which was pretty much straight south stuff, and I was in fact, surprised. Although there isn't another "Wait" on the disc, there are some #1's that feature Jackie O, Maroon 5, Bun B, Anwar, BG, Pitbull & more so u know this will be all over the clubs this summer...and any group that can put a song on their CD called "Fuck The Yin Yang Twins" just earned an extra T.. (7T)

CASSIDY,

I'M A HUSTLA, in stores June 28th

Not the pop CD. Cassidy is showing that he got skills that go far beyond those first pop hits. This CD includes the stylized flashback tracks like "B-Boy Stance" Chillin in the club with his b-boy stance...hangin on with is Dick in his pants....ok, ok, he says Gun, but I know what y'all b thinking...and PS....have we learned nothing bout the violence in HH? This CD had a feel of a NAS CD except Cassidy rarely reaches out 2 get deeeeep with us, choosing 2 stay mostly on the surface of life. He is young though, and this CD shows promise of a tru MC. Other highlights "AM to PM" and of course, "Husta" remixed with Mary J Bilige. Half the tracks are amazing half are so-so, so. (5T)

Material to be reviewed in this magazine must be send to:
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Suite 365,
Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

night life
club guide

Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-3394 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BURKHART'S
1492-F Piedmont Ave 404-872-4403

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St..... 404-872-3025

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CLUB 708
708 Spring Street..... 404-874-8125
Website: www.legendary708.com

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836 Juniper Street 404-246-9000
Website: www.wassupnatl.com

HERETIC
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LION'S DEN
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57 13th Street 770-991-6929
www.xtremeentertainmentatlanta.com

PHAZE ONE
893 Peachtree St..... 404-284-3600
Website: www.ozonentertainment.com

TOWER II
735 Ralph McGill..... 404-246-9000; 284-3600
Website:www.wassupnatl.com
www.ozonentertainment.com

BALTIMORE, MD

THE PARADOX
1310 Russel Street 410-837-9110

BIRMINGHAM, AL

FATBOY'S FOLLIES
215 N. Court Strreet 205-322-8338

CHARLOTTE, NC

CC NIGHTCLUB
313 West Hargett St..... 919-755-9599
Website:www.cc-raleigh.com

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THE BATON SHOW LOUNGE
436 North Clark St. 312-323-4141
Website:thebatonshowlounge.com

CIRCUS @ The Prop House
901 W. Weed St. 312-266-1200

CLUB REUNION
811 W. Lake Street 312-491-9600
Website:www.clubreunion.net

THE RAILS @ The Prop House
1675 N Elston Ave..... 773-486-2086
Website: www.railschi.net

EAR-ROTIC @ Spin
Belmont and Halsted. .. 312-323-4141
Website:www.zeretmusic.8m.com

ZENTRA
923 W. Weed Street 312-323-4141

DALLAS, TEXAS

CLUB ELM & PEARL (METRO)
2204 Elm St. 214-741-0000

HAVANA 4006 Cedar Springs.

OFF THE STREET
4001-B Cedar Springs.

VILLAGE STATION
3911 Cedar Springs 214-559-0650

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CHOCOLATE SUNDAYS
TRAXX Nightclub
3500 Walnut Street 303-863-7326

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

OFF BROADWAY EAST II
12215 Harper Avenue .. 313-521-0920

PANDORA'S BOXS
6221 E. Davidson St 313-892-8120

WOODWARD'S COCKTAIL BAR
6426 woodward Ave 313-872-0166

HOUSTON, TEXAS

BARTINI
2204 Elm St. 832-443-1016

G-SPOT
2205 Richmond 713-526-1979

VILLAGE STATION
3911 Cedar Springs 214-559-0650

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

CLUB CITY LIGHTS
200 N Mill St 601-353-0059

METRO
4670 Hwy 80 West 601-922-8237

JACKSONVILLE, FL

THIRD DIMENSION
711 Edison Ave..... 904-353-6316

LOS ANGELES, CA

BOY TRADE @ El Rey Theater
5515 Wilshire Blvd 213-350-3600

CATCH ONE
4067 W. Pico Blvd..... 323-734-8849
Website: www.jewelscatchone.com

FIRST FRIDAYZLA
Entertainment Studios
2260 15th Street 323-769-6333

THE LODGE
4923 Lankershim Blvd.. 818-769-7722

METRO - Here Lounge
696 Robertson Blvd .....
Website: ivandanielproductions.com

STUDY
1723 N. Western Ave .. 323-464-9951

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

ALLUSIONS ENTERTAINMENT
3204 North Thomas 901-357-8383

THE PARAGON
2865 Walnut Grove 901-320-0026

MIAMI/SOBE/FT LAUD, FL

ANTHEM & Mansion
1235 Washington Ave, SOBE
(www. anthemsundays.com)1

BOARDWALK
1721 N. Andrews, Ft Laud
..... 954-463-6969

BOULEVARD NIGHTCLUB
7770 Biscayne Blvd.... 305-759-0610

CLUB GT BAR
10205 NW 7th Ave 305-756-0212

COLLISEUM
2520 S. Miami Rd,Ft. Laud .. 954-753-2525

COPA NIGHTCLUB
2800 S Federal Ft Laud .. 954-463-1507

HOUSE (formally Cactus)
2041 Biscayne Blvd, .. 305-438-0662

JADE LOUNGE
1766 Bay Road,..... 305-695-0000

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2780 Davie Blvd, ... 954-581-8400

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FRIDAY LATE NIGHT:
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SET IT OUT SATURDAYS
SATURDAY LATE NIGHT:
AFTER PARTY PART 2
SUNDAY:
FLAVA MEN POOL PARTY
SUNDAY LATE NIGHT:
AFTER PARTY PART 3
MONDAY:
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MONDAY NIGHT:
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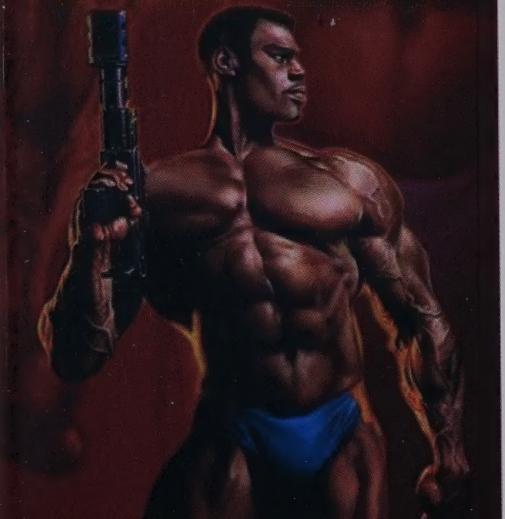

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WASSUP-N-ATL LABOR DAY 2005

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2911 Grand Ave..... 305-476-0202

SCORE
757 Lincoln Road..... 305-535-1111

SUGARS
17060 W. Dixie Hwy 305-940-9887

TWIST
1057 Washington Ave 305-538-9478

MONTGOMERY, ALA

FAT BOYS FOLLIES
215 North Court St 334-262-0029

NASHVILLE, TENN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan Street 615-742-1166

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FUSION'S
2004 AP Tureaud Ave. 504-301-5121

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CLUB SHELTER
20 W.39th St,..... 212-749-4479
Website: www.clubshelter.com

CLUBHOUSE
2234 3rd Ave, Harlem.. 212-330-8101
Website: www.clubworldusa.com

ESCUELITA
301 W. 39th St..... 212-631-0588
Website: www.escuelita.com

THE FLOW @ Stonewall
53 Christopher St,..... 646-230-1316

KRASH
16 W. 22nd St,..... 212-229-2000
Website: www.krashnyc.com

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2272 Telegraph Ave.,.... 213-350-3600

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4146 18th Street, SF.... 213-350-3600

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SAN DIEGO, CA

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TALLAHASSEE, FL

BROTHERS NIGHTCLUB
926 West Tharpe St 850-386-2399

CLUB TEN NINETY
Highway 90 off I-10.

TAMPA, FLORIDA

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7522 N. Armenia Ave .. 813-936-1999

HARBOR CLUB
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$25 Space Limited So Come Early
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Hosted by Sylvester "SLY" Carter
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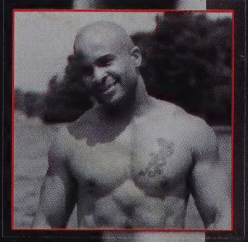
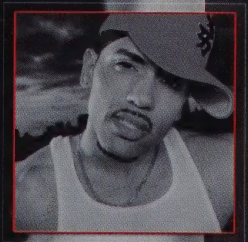
NEW-COMER TALENT SHOW
Hosted by Deidra, Plus Dee Franklin Thomas
Representing the Girls and yours truly "Lady T"

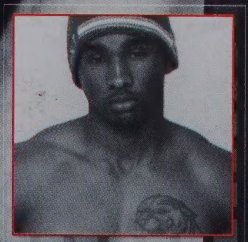


WEDNESDAYS
"MINI-BALL"
Hosted by Andre Givenchy

THURSDAYS
THIRSTY THURSDAYS
Sexy Male Dancers. Music by DJ JFK (Hip-Hop)
& DJ Goose (House). FREE til 11:30.
Then $5 All Night. Doors open @ 10pm
Restaurant Open. $1 Draft Beer & FREE
Well Drinks Every Thursday



FRIDAYS
Blackout Fridays (FREE 'til 11:30pm)
Hot Male Dancers Every Friday Night.
Music by DJ JFK (Hip-Hop) & DJ Goose (House)
Doors Open @ 10pm • Restaurant Open



SATURDAYS
Milkshake Saturdays (FREE 'til 11:30pm)
"My Milkshake Brings All the Boys To The Bar"
Music byDJ JFK (Hip-Hop) & DJ Goose (House)
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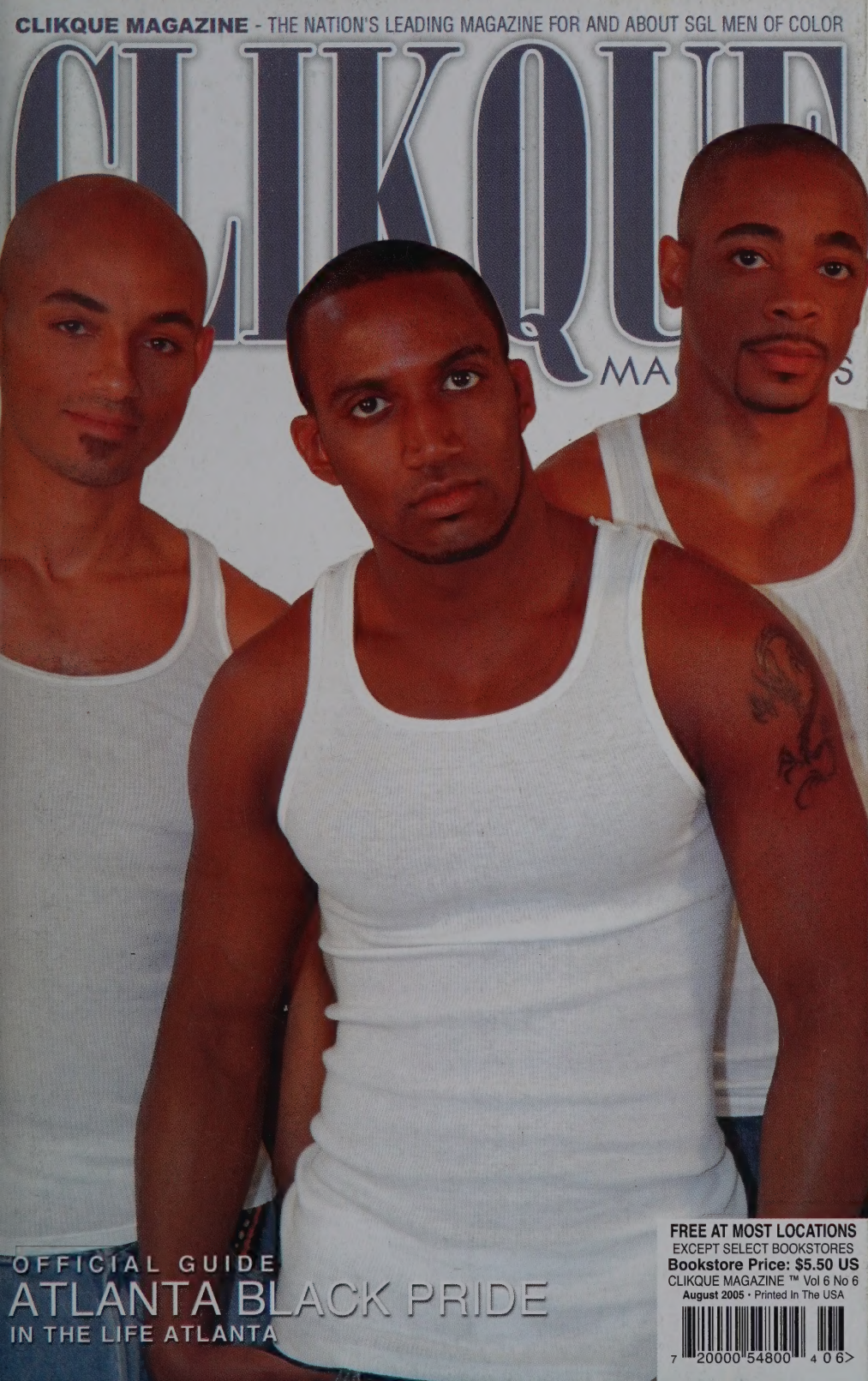

OFFICIAL GUIDE

ATLANTA BLACK PRIDE

IN THE LIFE ATLANTA

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August 2005 · Printed In The USA

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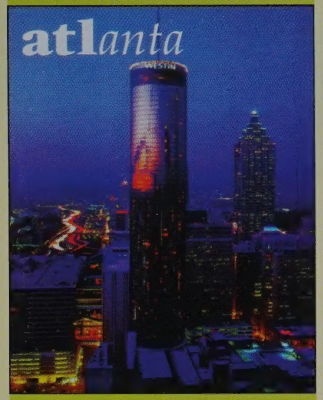

The youngest American city, **Atlanta**, as of late has become the Nation's greatest. This year at pride you are encouraged to explore the best that this fabulous Southern city has to offer. Take-in the hum of downtown's **The Underground,** the sophisticated shops at Lenox Square, dazzling nightlife of **Midtown**, and fuse with the counterculture in **Little Five Points**. For the first time ever, Clikque Magazine is unveiling it's **2005 Best of Atlanta**. With all that Atlanta has to offer, this was a task of humongous proportions. Here are our picks.

Places To Party @ Night

1 Atlanta Live (See pg 38)
3595 Clairmont Rd, Decalb

2 Atrium, The (See pg 38)
5479 Memorial Drive, Decatur

3 Bulldogs Bar/Club (See pg 40)
5479 Memorial Drive

4 Chaparral, The (See pg 42)
2715 Buford Hwy

5 Club 708 (See pg 36)
708 Spring Street, Midtown

6 Club 836 (See pg 6)
836 Juniper Street, Midtown

7 CoCo Loco (See pg 42)
1296 Morland Ave

8 Compound, The (See pg 46)
1008 Brady Ave

9 Cosmo / Lava Lounge (See pg 46)
57 13th Street, Midtown

10 Imperial, The (See pg 42)
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd

11 Knights Hall (See pg 42)
2620 Buford Hwy

12 Jungle, The (See pg 42)
2115 Faulkner Rd

13 Phaze One (See pg 44)
4933 Memorial Drive, Decatur

14 Tower II (See pg 44)
735 Ralph McGill Blvd

Places Of Interest

A Centennial Olympic Park

B The Cnn Center

C Historic Sweet Auburn Ave

D MLK Center - 404-331-5190

E Underground Atlanta

F World Of Coca Cola

Places To Eat

These Are Clikque's Best Of Atlanta Places To Eat At:

THAI.....TAMARIND THAI CUISINE
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STEAK.....BONES
3130 Piedmont Rd - 404.237.2663

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CHINESE PF CHANG'S BISTRO
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K 878 Peachtree St Ne

LATE NIGHT R. THOMAS GRILL
L 1812 Peachtree St - 404.881.0246

Places To Shop

M Mall At Peachtree Ctr

N Phipps Plaza

O Shops At Lenox

P Underground Atlanta

Q Little Five Points
www.littlefivepoints.net

Host Hotel

R Sheraton Midtown Atlanta
188 14th Street NE Atlanta,
Georgia 30361 United States
Phone (404) 892-6000

This Map Is Brought To You Courtesy of Sizzle Miami Incorporated:

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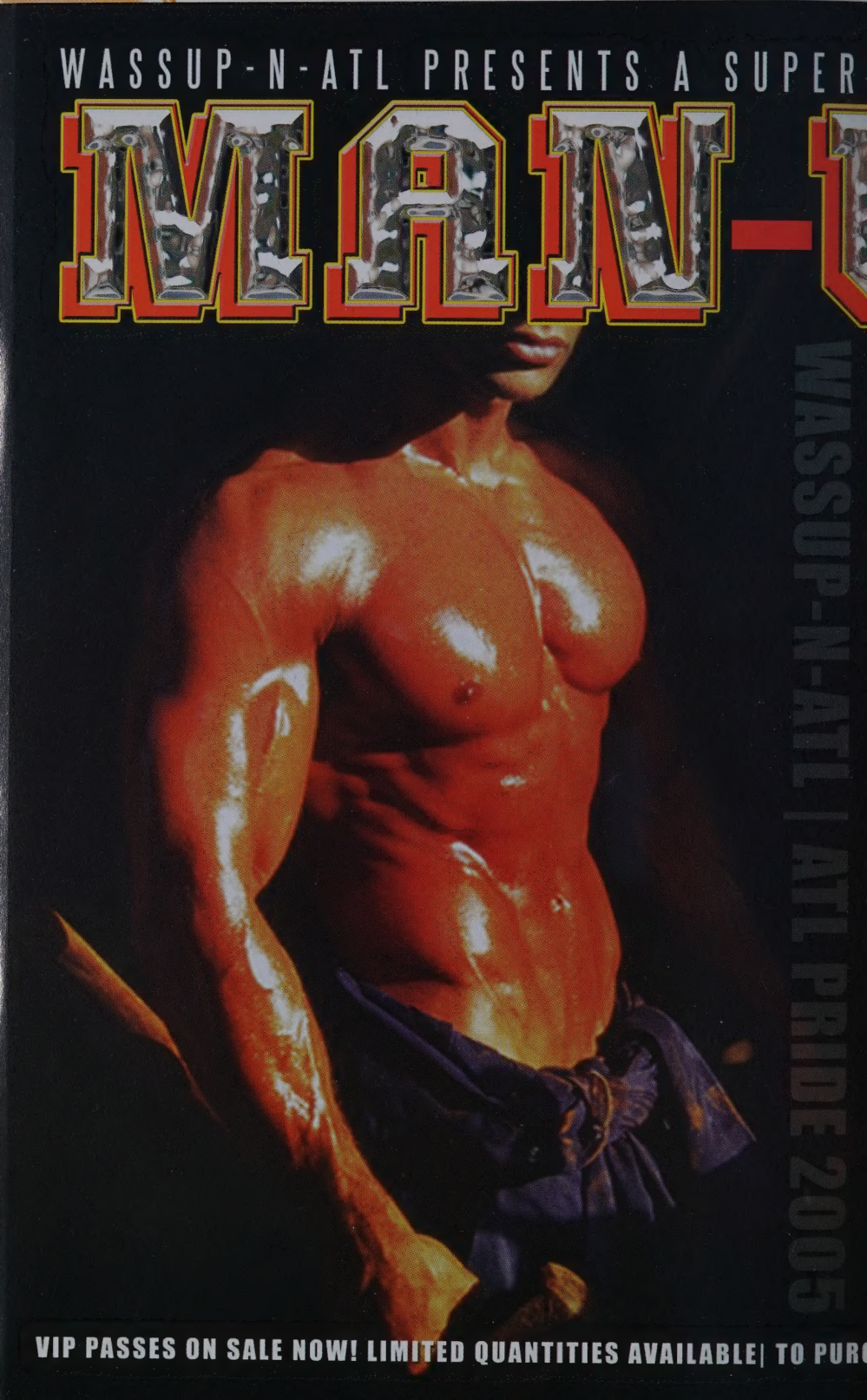
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WEDNESDAY-AUGUST 31, 2005
THE PIN | BOWLING PARTY @ EXPRESS LANES

THURSDAY-SEPTEMBER 01, 2005
THE WRENCH | COMEDY SHOW/PARTY | CLUB 836

FRIDAY-SEPTEMBER 02, 2005
THE HAMMER | MANHUNT FRIDAYS | TOWERII
THE NAIL | MANHUNT AFTER PARTY | LOCATION TBA

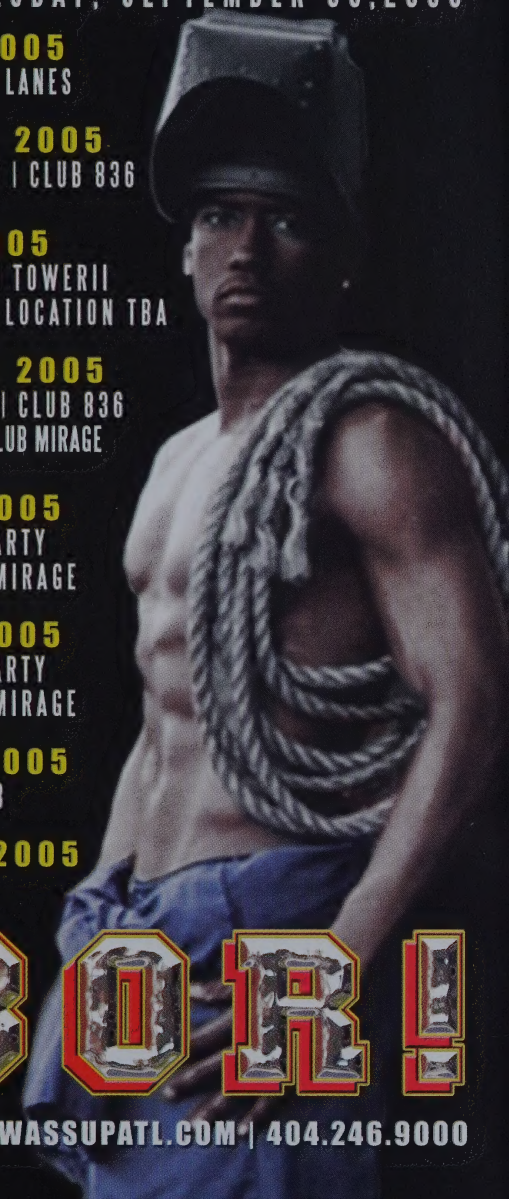
SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 03, 2005
THE SCREW | SUPER SIZE SATURDAYS| CLUB 836
DOUBLE SHIFT | SUPER SIZE AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 04, 2005
THE PIPE | WASSUP-N-ATL POOL PARTY
OVERTIME | AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

SUNDAY-SEPTEMBER 04, 2005
THE PIPE | WASSUP-N-ATL POOL PARTY
OVERTIME | AFTER PARTY | CLUB MIRAGE

MONDAY-SEPTEMBER 05, 2005
THE DRILL | COMPOUND NIGHTCLUB

TUESDAY-SEPTEMBER 06, 2005
THE NUT | COCO LOCO



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EDITOR'S DESK

DWIGHT S POWELL

This issue, I will deviate a little from my usual blurb. As you may already know, Clikque is the only surviving national Black gay publication. Through all the rough times, we're here and still going strong. This is made possible in part by the advertisers and the hard work of the dedicated and loyal staff and writers.

We believe that Clikque is a very important and valuable product being offered to our community. The timely news, entertainment and information are a much-needed resource.

As I said earlier, Clikque is all we have right now, and I would like to encourage all of you to embrace and support it. If there is something about the magagine you like, we'll like to hear from you. Likewise, if there are issues and concerns that you make have as it pertain to our format, layout, content or lack there of, please, let us know. With your support, we can continue to make Clikque Magazine the best that it can be.

You may have noticed that all summer long we have been conducting a subscription drive campaign. We are trying to get this magazine in as many hands as possible. If you're not a current subscriber, I would like to invite you to become apart of the Clikque family.... we promise to keep you informed about every thing and all happening in our community. If you are a current subscriber, I would be greatly appreciative if you would turn us on to as many of your friends as possible. We need the support of all of you. I am asking all of you that are reading this to shoot an email to everyone on your email list and direct them to our website: www.clikque.com

We hope that the pride map provided courtesy of Sizzle Miami Incorporated was of great use to you as you take-on Atlanta, during pride during the Labor Day Weekend. As a major sponsor of pride, this year we are please to again be working with In The Life Atlanta, the official pride organizers of pride in Atlanta. Support them by purchasing their ITLA Pride Passes on their official website www.Inthelifeatl.com

Finally, we are so excited about the VIP / Welcome reception that we will be hosting for ITLA on Friday 2nd September @ The Atrium On Sweet Auburn. This is a pre-club event that benefits ITLA, so be sure to get there early. Come and mingle with some of our national leaders, authors, activists and entertainers.

See you at the event and I hope that you enjoy this issue of Clikque.

Dwight Powell

Clikque MAGAZINE

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BLACK SKI WEEKEND

FEB 17-20, 2006

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

Lookout Denver!

We're Coming and We're Bringin' the Heat.

For four days beginning **February 17, 2006**, Thrill-seeking men from around the country will converge in Denver for a massive Meltdown; The **Largest Black Gay Ski** weekend of events ever!

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Gay Black Invisibility Explored

NYU panel looks at challenge of accurately portraying African-American gays and lesbians

In a cultural, if not political sense, the United States has made dramatic advances in recent years in recognizing its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT)citizens.

At the same time, there are many in the LGBT community who believe that the American public generally lacks a full grasp of the diversity within queer ranks. If that lack of awareness is to be effectively challenged, in whose hands does the responsibility lie?

On Friday, June 24, at New York University, Black Pride NYC teamed up with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to sponsor a panel discussion titled, "M.I.A.? Positive Black LGBT Images in Media."

The panel, moderated by Katina Parker, a media expert at GLAAD, featured filmmaker Maurice Jamal ("Ski Trip"); Samiya Bashir, communications director for the Freedom to Marry Coalition; Jason Cooper, senior field organizer for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Riley Snorton, a spokesman for the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN); Ray Daniels, director of communications for the National Black Justice Coalition; and journalist Kai Wright.

The panel last Friday at NYU discussing the invisibility of the African-American LGBT community in the media included: (l. to r.) GLAAD's Katina Parker, the Task Force's Jason Cooper, GLSEN's Riley Snorton, Freedom to Marry's Samiya Bashir, journalist Kai Wright, Ray Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition, and filmmaker Maurice Jamal.

"There's no doubt that we're there," said Bashir. "But it's always as the butt of a joke. We'll be on a sitcom, but never in a drama. There's never an attempt to show any sort of humanity. It's always stereotypical."

"Whether it's film, or television or the front page of a newspaper, people need to understand that this is a money-driven process," said Wright. "Artistry is nice, but at the end of the day, the people running these companies want to know if your story is going to bring money in the door. That's the reality. It's a business."

Most of the panelists agreed that what imagery does exist in the major media plays itself out in extreme cases of stereotyping that began with the snap queen and have now morphed into a fascination with 'the down low.' Several speakers argued that the media continues to criminalize black gay men as either sexually exotic but inherently dangerous creatures or as promiscuous sexual deviants spreading disease and destroying communities. The panelists credited black lesbians for providing role models as mothers and caregivers within both the black and gay communities, but said their image, when it is present at all, is typically limited either to the role of an aggressive bull dyke or as fodder for heterosexual male fantasy.

"The only people who can change this is us," said filmmaker Jamal. "Straight white people don't sit around and talk about gay issues. Gay white people do. We have to take charge of our images ourselves. Too many people, other than ourselves, are painting our picture. We have to paint our own canvas."

GLAAD's Parker echoed the sentiment that the community must hold itself responsible, discussing her mother's difficulty in accepting her daugh-

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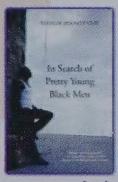

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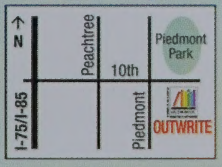

ARTICLE BY ROBB LEIGH DAVIS

INVISIBILITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ter's sexuality.

"To my mother, gay meant the white men she sees on television, and all the good and bad that goes along with those images," Parker said. "She couldn't comprehend how her daughter, her baby, fit in with that vision."

Jason Cooper spoke of his experiences with the Task Force, going door-to-door in Atlanta doing voter outreach and encountering the attitudes that continue to prevail.

"People refused to believe that I was gay," he said. "I didn't fit the idea they had created in their head about what being black and gay means. One woman looked at me and said, 'You don't look like gay people. You look like my son.'"

The panelists gave a great deal of credit to LGBT youth of color, who are mobilizing in ways that generations before them never did.

"The young people are almost demanding control of their image and saying they refuse to be depicted in someone else's eyes," said GLSEN's Snorton. "And many of these youth are black and Latino who are simultaneously challenging ideas of race."

A difference in opinion amongst panelists and those the audience came when discussing the question of whether homophobia is more prevalent within the black community, with some seeing it as a smoke-and-mirrors tactic by the media to further divide the communities and others feeling that there is more truth to the statement than people are willing to acknowledge.

"People are more hostile when they can't see you," said Daniels of the National Black Justice Coalition. "But it stems more from ignorance than hatred. If they have nothing in their face challenging the thoughts that have been in their minds for years, it becomes extremely difficult to change their way of thinking."

Parker brought the evening to a close stressing the need for the black LGBT community to mobilize itself to counter the inroads that the religious right has made recently in aligning itself with the black church-going community across the nation.

"We must begin to put our own image out there, whether it's film, art, photography, snap queen or lesbian with a Ph. D.," Parker said. "We can't be heard, if we don't allow ourselves to be se=. en."

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By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

Bill to unite gay couples split by nationality

Measure would allow U.S. citizens to sponsor partners

Joanne, an illegal immigrant from Poland, fell in love with an American woman in 2003 when she was 21. When her family found out she was a lesbian, they threatened to have her deported.

The threat was made more frightening because American citizens and permanent residents cannot sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration benefits the way that straight married couples can. The Defense of Marriage Act prohibits gay couples from receiving the federal benefits of marriage, including immigration rights, even if they are legally married in Massachusetts, Canada or elsewhere.

But Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) recently introduced the Uniting American Families Act (UAFA), formerly the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, to allow same-sex "permanent partners" to stay together.

Leahy and Nadler were not available for comment this week.

The bill would create the new "permanent partner" category for immigration purposes only. Same-sex couples would be subject to the same evaluations that straight couples go through to verify authenticity of a relationship.

The current immigration restrictions have forced many "bi-national" gay couples – where the partners are from different countries – to move outside the United States to one of the 16 countries that provide immigration benefits for same-sex couples.

Gay citizens of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom can sponsor their same-sex partner for citizenship.

But Joanne and her partner want to stay in the United States. After her family's threat, they moved together to California, then back to New York, where they settled in Harlem. Joanne spoke to the Blade on the condition that her real name not be used.

Living in the shadows

Joanne's status puts her at risk, like so many illegal immigrants, of exploitation and limited employment options. Employers won't sponsor her because she doesn't have enough years of training or education, she said.

When Joanne worked at a laundromat in New York for $6 an hour, her boss withheld a week's pay when she told him she was quitting. She couldn't protest because of the familiar threat of deportation.

"I basically don't exist in this country," she said.

For lower-income people like Joanne, the immigration restrictions on gays hit hardest, according to Adam Francoeur, program coordinator for Immigration Equality, a group that advocates on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered immigrants.

There are two ways to access the immigration system, through family or employment, he said. The family option is largely unavailable to same-sex couples, so that leaves them with employment, which carries training and education requirements, Francoeur explained.

"An immigration system without the family unification option can extremely favor higher income individuals," he said.

Victoria Neilson, legal director of Immigration Equality, said the current laws rip families apart for no reason other than their sexual orientation. In fact, she said, having an American partner can be reason to deny a visa because foreign visitors have to show they do not intend to stay in the U.S. permanently.

"It has a devastating impact on families," she said.

The bill's chances of passage are unlikely, its supporters say. It has been introduced every year since 2000 and has never come to a vote, although Francoeur said it enjoys bipartisan support.

Those who oppose the bill often say it is a backdoor to gay marriage, he said. Focus on the Family, a conservative group that usually opposes any pro-gay bills, was not available for comment.

Others have criticized the measure because they claim it would open the floodgates and allow too many people entry to the country, Francoeur said. There are about 36,000 bi-national gay couples living in the U.S. according to a 2000 census, he said.

Jack Martin, spokesperson for the conservative group Federation for American Immigration Reform, said his group would lean against the legislation if it increased the number of immigrants in the U.S.

"Current immigration is too large, therefore any change that would have the effect of increasing immigration we would probably oppose," he said. "We haven't taken any specific position with regard to the specific bill."

'Two tough hurdles'

In today's conservative Congress, the UAFA has the double obstacle of being pro-immigrant and pro-gay.

"It's a pretty anti-immigrant Congress [and] a pretty anti-LGBT Congress," Neilson said. "Two tough hurdles to overcome."

NEWS CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

By ELIZABETH WEILL-GREENBERG

NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The post-9/11 crackdown on immigrants has made it harder for binational same-sex couples. While some laws have stayed the same on paper, student and work visas of the type many gay couples use to stay together are now the subject of much closer scrutiny, said Francoeur. Also, employers are more reticent to sponsor foreign nationals.

"Extra scrutiny often leads to denial," Francoeur said.

That is just what happened when Shane, a British citizen, tried to visit his partner, Jeremy, an American citizen, in Georgia. Shane spoke on the condition that the Blade not use his or his partner's real name.

Frustrated by U.S. immigration rules, Shane and Jeremy moved to Britain in 2004 where they can establish permanent residency. After a same-sex couple lives together for two years, a British citizen can sponsor his partner, Shane said.

When they lived together in the U.S., Shane could only visit for 90 days at a time.

"For two years, I lived as a third-class citizen," he said. "I could be taken away from [Jeremy] at any stage."

Earlier this month on Jeremy's trip to the U.S., he asked Shane to come visit him. Shane flew in to Atlanta and, to his shock, was denied entry. He was told that on a previous visit he overstayed by one day but was not provided more details, Shane said.

He had the choice between being held in a detention center until a flight was available or buying a $5,000 first-class ticket home, he said.

"I was searched, detained, fingerprinted, photographed, had my passport marked, and returned on the next flight back to the United Kingdom," Shane wrote in a letter to an Atlanta newspaper.

The following day, two U.S. federal marshals went to Jeremy's home, interviewed him and requested his banking and employment information, according to Shane. The next time Jeremy flew into the U.S., he was pulled into a second room and asked if he had "anti-American sentiments," Shane said.

When asked how his experiences have influenced his opinion of the U.S., he said, "I've been really careful not to bash the country because my partner is American."

However, he added, "It astonishes me the way America acts like the freest country. ... We've struggled very hard just to stay together."

Elizabeth Weill-Greenberg can be reached at eweill-greenberg@washblade.com.

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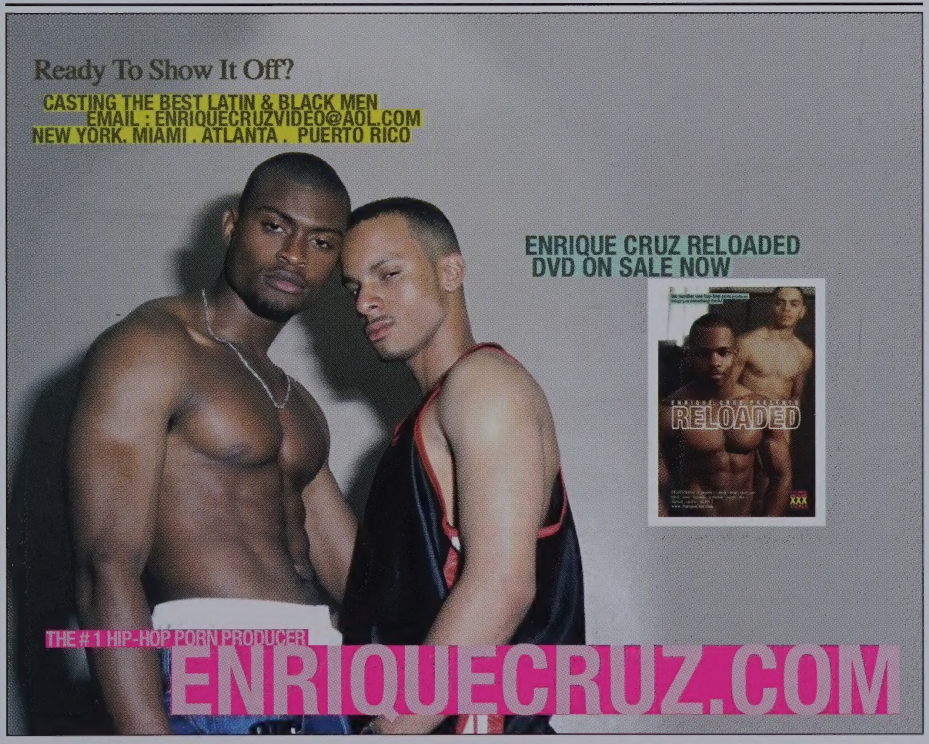
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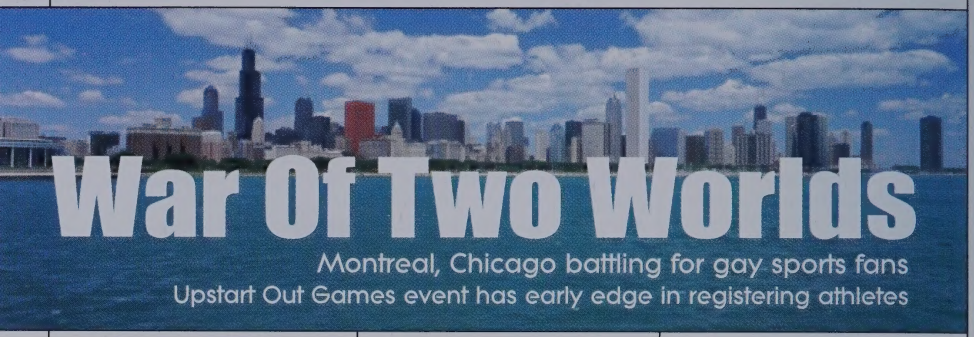

War Of Two Worlds

Montreal, Chicago battling for gay sports fans

Upstart Out Games event has early edge in registering athletes

A breakaway organization promoting an international gay and lesbian sports competition in Montreal in July 2006 called Out Games has registered more athletes and teams than its rival Gay Games event, which is set to take place in Chicago two weeks earlier.

But supporters of both events say it's too soon to determine which one will draw the most participants and spectators as both sides wage an aggressive campaign to sign up paid registrants.

The two sides are pushing their campaigns through upscale Web sites accessible in several languages. Elected officials and business leaders in both cities have joined the gay organizers to help promote the two events in an unprecedented effort to lure millions of gay tourist dollars to their hometowns.

At first, many gay sports enthusiasts predicted the two competing events would lead to a financial disaster for both and would dilute and split apart what had become a unified quadrennial gay event. Now, some are wondering whether the competition has triggered an unprecedented professionalism and such an overwhelming desire to come out ahead of the other that both events might turn out better than past Gay Games – both in attendance and the financial bottom line.

As of this week, officials with Out Games announced that 5,600 participants had registered and paid in full or in part to compete in the Montreal games, including at least 1,500 Americans. Gay Games officials said about 3,000 participants who paid their registration fees in full have signed up to participate in the Chicago events. Both sides said the participants who signed up come from more than 20 countries, with most expected to come from North America.

Each side predicts at least 12,000 participants will attend their respective events.

Competing for more than athletes

The two sides are also competing to line up gay choruses and bands from Europe and North America. In recent years, the Gay Games evolved into a cultural festival as well as an athletic event, with extravaganza performances by choruses, bands and top-name entertainers taking place at stadiums where the opening and closing ceremonies are held.

"We still don't know where most of our teams will go," said Brent Minor, president of Team D.C., an umbrella group that represents more than two-dozen D.C. area gay and lesbian sports teams and groups, ranging from soccer and golf to swimming and volleyball.

"Team D.C. voted to support our participants, whichever event they choose to attend," Minor said.

Minor said members of some of the D.C. teams, as well as teams in other cities, are taking a wait-and-see posture to determine which city will capture the top competition in a category of sporting event – such as soccer or swimming.

The San Francisco-based Federation of Gay Games, which was formed by the late gay Olympic athlete Tom Waddell in the 1980s, is credited with starting what has become known as an international gay and lesbian sports "movement." Waddell almost single-handedly put together the first Gay Games competition in San Francisco in 1982 following a legal ruling initiated by the International Olympics Committee that forced him to drop the name "Gay Olympics."

The gay international sporting competition continued every four years since that time under the Gay Games title, growing each year in numbers. The founding event in 1982 drew 1,350 gay and lesbian athletes mostly from North America and Europe, according to Roger Brigham, communications director for the Federation of Gay Games.

The number of participants jumped to 12,500 in New York City in 1994, climbed to a record 13,000 in Amsterdam in 1998 and dropped back to 11,000 in Sidney, Australia in 2002, Brigham said.

Shortly before the Sidney games were held, the FGG named Montreal the winner in a competition among gay sporting associations to sponsor the 2006 Gay Games. A short time later, the Montreal organizing committee, Montreal 2006, says it lined up generous sponsors from some of Canada's largest corporations and persuaded the governments of Montreal, Quebec, and the national Canadian government to sign on as "partners" to the event and to kick in $1 million each to help finance the games.

ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

The committee called those developments historic, saying Canada's entire governmental establishment had endorsed and agreed to help subsidize an international gay sporting event.

What happened next takes on an entirely different perspective and interpretation among the Gay Games and Out Games leaders.

The Gay Games in Sydney, while hailed as a highly successful sports event, turned into a financial disaster, with millions of dollars in debt and gay and gay-friendly vendors left holding the bag with unpaid bills. Coming on the heels of similar financial problems with the previous two Gay Games in Amsterdam and New York, the FGG pushed through a series of rules changes that required the Montreal committee to turn over financial control of the event to the FGG. Up until that time, the committees for the host cities had full financial control over the events.

Former Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury has taken a lead role in preparing for the first Out Games, scheduled for next summer in Montreal. (Photo by Ahn Young-Joon/AP)

Among other things, the FGG wanted Montreal to scale back its initial budget from 24,000 participants to 12,000, saying a 24,000 turnout appeared unrealistic and could lead to financial problems similar to Sydney's. FGG officials also requested that Montreal not link its sporting events to a planned international gay rights conference and to Montreal's annual Gay Pride event known as Diversité. In addition, the FGG objected to the Montreal committee's plans to link the Game Games to various circuit parties that have been associated with Diversité.

"This just came out of the blue after we put together a detailed and what we thought was a highly successful business plan," said Mark Tewksbury, an Olympic athlete and one of the Canadians organizing the Montreal Games.

Tewksbury and other leaders of Montreal 2006 called the FGG rule changes unfair. They point out that nearly all of Montreal's plans for the 2006 Gay Games – the projected 24,000 participants, the link to the Diversité Gay Pride festivities, and the international gay conference – were submitted to the FGG as part of Montreal's bid for the games. No one raised objections to any of these proposals at that time, Tewksbury said.

Brigham, the communications director for FGG, said the organization's international governing body, which includes representatives from nations in Europe and North America, approved the rules changes after assessing the financial problems encountered by Gay Games committees in New York, Amsterdam and Sydney.

"The income projections have always been overblown," he said. "We are concerned about hurting local gay businesses," he said, noting that gay-owned businesses that have provided services to help put on the games often have been stiffed when the committees run out of money.

Brigham said FGG officials also decided – based on what he said was consultation with gay sporting teams in North America and abroad – that the Gay Games should stick to its original role as a sports event, with some performing arts and cultural activities like gay chorus and band performances. Linking the games with other events such as circuit parties, political conferences, and Pride events – as proposed by Montreal – would not be consistent with the Gay Games and its "mission" to promote the gay sports movement, Brigham said.

According to Brigham, the FGG would have approved a larger budget to accommodate more than 12,000 participants later in the process, if Montreal succeeded in signing on more participants.

Negotiations break down

Nearly two years of negotiations followed. Each side has disputed claims by the other over the reasons the negotiations ultimately broke down. In November 2003, Montreal 2006 stunned the gay sports establishment by saying it would hold its own international gay sports competition in Montreal on the dates initially designated for the Gay Games: July 29-Aug. 5, 2006.

The group announced later that it had formed a new entity - the Gay & Lesbian International Sports

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ARTICLE BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., Window Media

GAY GAMES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Association – and would take bids for Out Games II in 2010.

In March 2004, the FGG named Chicago as the host city for the "official" 2006 Gay Games. A newly formed Chicago organizing committee, Chicago Games, Inc., has since formed and hired gay corporate executive and past Gay Games athlete Brian McGuinness as CEO of the new organization. McGuinness is a Chicago native who learned to speak French while serving for three years as finance director for an international media company based in Paris, the Chicago Games Web site says.

With Montreal working hard to attract European participation, Chicago Games has been touting McGuinness's international background and finance skills in what is shaping up as a heated public relations campaign between the two cities.

The Chicago mayor and the Illinois governor has each endorsed the Gay Games, and Chicago's business establishment and Chamber of Commerce are pulling out all the stops to promote the event, said Kevin Beyer, chair of the Chicago Games Marketing Committee.

Decathlete Tom Waddell, shown here preparing for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, helped organize the first Gay Games in 1982. Waddell died in 1987. (File photo by AP)

Last year, Montreal 2006 hired Rachel Corbet as executive director of Montreal 2006. Corbet has extensive experience working with international sports events in Canada and Europe. Like McGuinness, she has a growing staff of full-time employees and comfortable office space in a prestigious downtown office building to help her promote the Out Games events.

Corbet said she is hopeful that both events will be successful but predicted the Out Games would surpass the Gay Games in future years to become the main international gay sporting competition. She dismissed calls by some Gay Games supporters that Out Games should become a North American gay sports competition similar to the yearly Euro Games, which are held each year except during the year of the Gay Games.

She predicts the opposite might happen – that the Gay Games will shrink in participation and be forced to limit its role to North American teams.

"It is hard for a lot of GLBT people to come to the U.S.," she said, pointing to U.S. immigration policies that ban people with HIV from entering the country unless they get a special waiver. She also points to hostility toward the U.S. war in Iraq and to President Bush in general by many Europeans. With Canada's decision this year to legalize same-sex marriage and with Montreal's reputation for being North America's most gay-friendly city, Corbet said, Montreal is likely to attract far more participants from countries outside of North America.

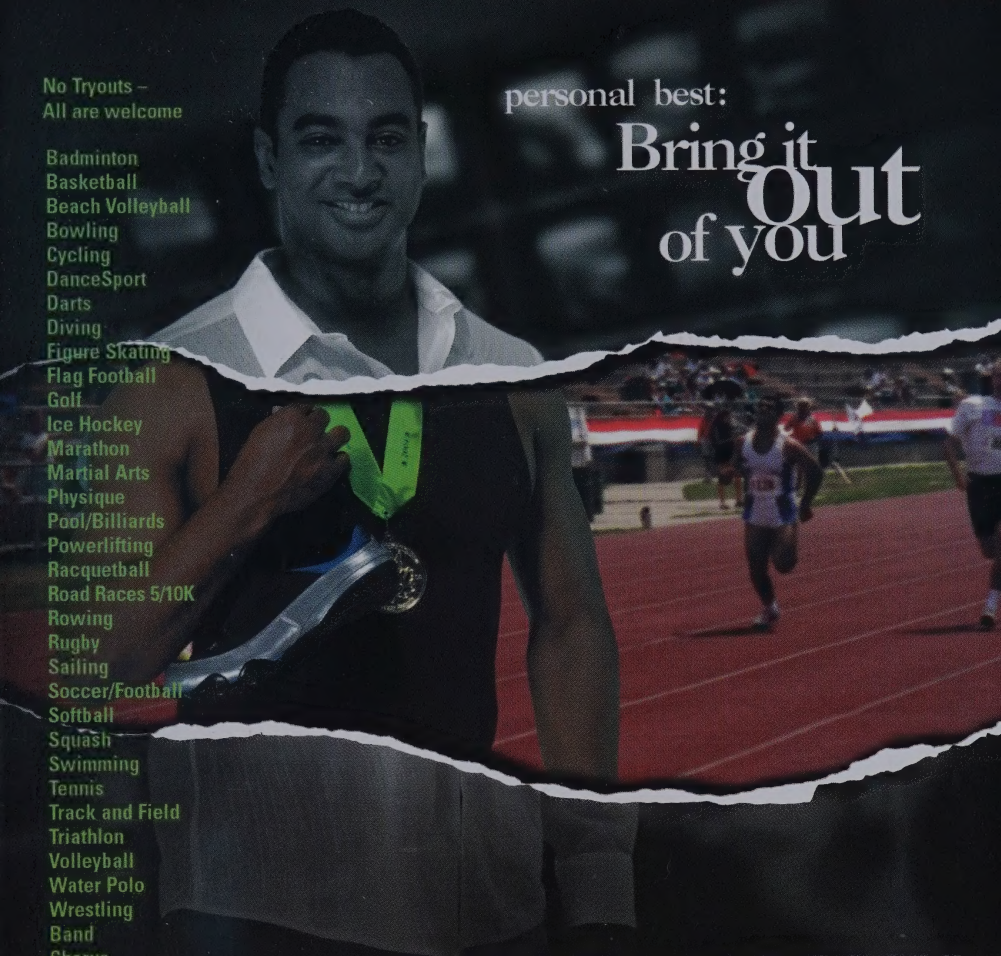
Boyer and Brigham strongly dispute this assessment. The two note that the U.S. routinely waives its immigration restrictions for people with HIV for special events like the Gay Games. They point to Chicago's reputation as a gay-friendly city, with a large gay community and pro-gay laws.

Live broadcasts planned

Boyer said another draw for Chicago is the decision by the newly formed gay cable television network, QTV, to provide live television coverage of the Gay Games for six-to-eight hours a day for the entire eight-day event. QTV is waiving its fee for the game by unscrambling its channel to allow any cable TV subscriber to watch the games if their local cable company carries the QTV network, Boyer said.

"Yes, there is competition between these events," Boyer said.

He said the gay sports movement has grown dramatically in the U.S. and Europe since the last time a U.S. city has hosted the Gay Games in 1994. With thousands more participating in gay sports competitions in their home cities and countries, there could be ample participation to push the attendance in both Chicago and Montreal to more than 12,000.



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On Luther Vandross, Gay-Identity and Black men. It's time that yawl get it!

This is article that was originally written to the Washington Blade. They are 1 of 6 publications that printed an article on Luther the same story. Those publications owned by Window Media.

In two recent articles Blade writers referenced that Luther Vandross never identified as gay, and no well known African American has. I think it is time that the traditional, gay-identity biased lens on homosexuality be challenged. So that engagement of other ways of being and identifying can respectfully take place. I have spent time with Vandross. If he, like James Baldwin (who identified as homosexual, not gay), or my self, like so many Black men, do not identify as gay, then we are not! Similarly, if a homosexual woman does not identify as gay (a term conceived by often sexist and racist White homosexual males), but as lesbian, then she is not gay! I, personally, have never had qualms with my homosexuality. Yet, I have never resonated with gay culture, most of the White faces [still] representing gay, or with gay media or symbology (German triangles, Greek lambdas, a rainbow-flag with no Black stripe, etc.). Most of this is White or European in origin, and does not affirm me. Sure, a number of African Americans are less concerned about cultural affirmation and connection. They assimilate and accept whatever White folks or the mainstream decides. And there are people like me, millions, who are Black, bisexual or homosexual and just do not 'feel' "gay" as

relevant - at all - to who we are. Terms like same-gender-loving (SGL), homothug, homie-sexual and even the horrid "Down Low" were born out of Black people preferring to identify and embrace ourselves as homo/bi people of African descent.

One barely addressed (in traditional gay circles) factor regarding Black apprehension to gay-identify is that society provides little space that affirms same-gender-loving (SGL) Black folks. Gay culture certainly does not. For many of us tokenism or being a "special subject" ain't enough. Maybe if it had ever been clear to Luther that those asking "are you gay" would respectfully interpret how he loved in ways affirming of his culture and worldview, he may have been more responsive. Given the scandalous way in which he is being discussed in gay publications, following his death, why he would be apprehensive has been re-revealed. I relate to Vandross, in that, if and when someone asks me if I am gay. Without hesitation I say no. Because I am not.

When space is finally made for the authentic affirmation of human diversity, more people, Black people in this instance, may be compelled to "openly" tell our same-gender-love stories.

COMMENTS

I completely understand about not identifying with gay culture as it is represented in the media and in many folks minds. But when someone asks you if you are gay, and you say "no" do you correct them to say "I am same gender loving" or do you just walk away from or end the conversation?

If folks ask if I am gay, I say yes, despite the fact of how I disagree with how "gay" is portrayed in this country and perhaps most of the world. But when I am asked this question, I answer the part of the question that is asking, "who is it that I chose to love," not the inference that I subscribe to gay pop culture. Anything less of an answer from me, I would feel as though I were deliberately being deceitful.

-Londell Jackson

In a way, it is deceitful but only in the eyes of the person asking the question. I say this because they hold certain assumptions about what "gay" is. That it may or may not apply to you as an individual is irrelevant to them. People don't ask, "are you gay" simply to find out if you sleep with men. They want to know if you are effeminate, if you drag, if you vogue, if you consider yourself "less than a man", they

Cleo Manago is an activist, writer, instructor, musician, and social architect. Manago is the founder of the Black Men's Xchange (BMX), an "Africentric" national communications clearinghouse and support system for the empowerment of Black men of diverse sexual/intimate expression. He is also founder of the African-American AIDS, Support-Services & Survival Institutes, Inc. (AMASSI) in Oakland and Inglewood, California.

want to know, pointedly, if you align yourself with a subculture that (for all intents and purposes) excludes you from most participation.

Refusing to take up the mantle of the word "gay" is oppositional. It's about claiming your identity for yourself. Most of the "straight" world thinks along very narrow lines, usually rooted in a white supremacist way of thinking. This means that whether they know it or not, they fundamentally don't understand choosing to call yourself anything other than "gay". Their assumption is that if you don't fit into the "straight" world, then you must fit into the "gay" world. Both those "worlds" are sustained by white folks, white interests. This is not inherently a bad thing, but what happens is that both "gay" and "straight" folks get confused if you want to have "a black same-gender loving" world. Because opposition to them is separatism. And that's offensive to them.

To be more direct in answering your question, no it is not deceitful. Because if you don't consider yourself to be a part of all the things that "gay" means to much of society, you have the right to redefine yourself. The problem with people thinking it's deceitful is because in this country there is a tendency to define things very narrowly and white folks (even otherwise wonderful nice liberal white folks) usually get to do all the defining and get thrown off when such definitions (which are fluid) are opposed.

There is nothing wrong with creating your own identity.

–Tyler Lewis

Throughout history we have always been forced to assimilate to "white" terms and their social constructs. Historically and in the present, the term "gay" has become associated with "white" because even though we all share a common oppression that stems from our sexual orientation, white people are still able to align with their race to hold positions of power. When all of a sudden they "gay community" starts a gay marriage rights movement and we are of use to them, they expect us to conform to the term "gay" even though we have strategically been excluded from the community from the very beginning. It is this expectation that frustrates me most.

Rather than conforming to their terms I offer the solution of re-defining what the term "gay" means for our communities so that we do not feel that we are yet again conforming to their standards and definitions "bestowed" upon us. I have many African American friends who are completely comfortable with their sexuality but still do not identify as "gay." I agree that we don't always have to have a "term or category" to define ourselves, but uniting around an identity that WE define and relate to can be empowering beyond belief. Being a South Asian "gay" (I still use the term loosely) man, I have seen the beginning of how powerful uniting around this identity can be as we define it. Our communities that are ordinarily divided by religion (Hindu's, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians) have broken their boundaries and borders to organize around a common experience. That is the power of identity. We can not scrap the concept of defining our experience all together. Otherwise we are isolated in the web of complexity that hinders our identity development as "gay" people of color. This entanglement has both an indirect and direct relationship to the depression, HIV, and health outcomes that infringe our communities disproportionately.

with love - **Harnik Gulati**

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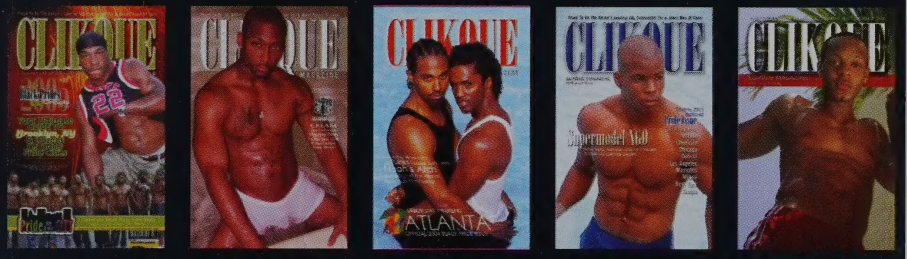

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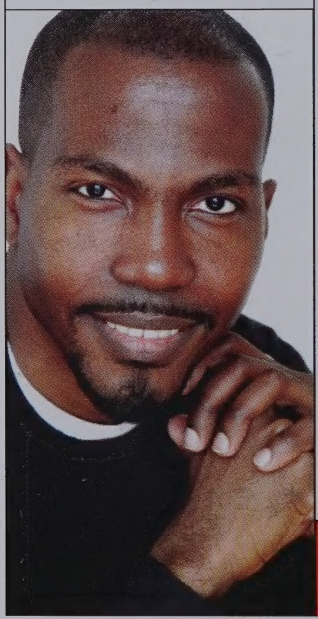
BY: HERNDON L. DAVIS

GOD IS A REPUBLICAN — AND — JESUS IS A DEMOCRAT

Insiders from within the Kingdom of Heaven report that there,s been a rift in the family of divinity, which threatens to literally tear its earthy family apart. Apparently, the patriarch of life, the most High Father himself, God, has recently aligned himself with staunch political conservatives and is now believed to be a card caring member of the GOP.

However, God,s son, Jesus is rumored to be more of a moderate liberal and has wrapped himself tightly in a blue democratic cloth, standing for a kindler, gentler and more progressive tone across the world. Their stark differences of political beliefs has caused a rumble in heaven as witnessed by several severe weather patterns occurring across the world.



Angels in heaven are reportedly taking sides as this Father-Son feud continues to escalate on issues concerning homosexuality, gay rights, abortion, reproductive rights, the Iraq War, safe-sex education in public schools, social security overhaul, judicial appointments, affirmative action, and women in the clergy, among several other political/spiritual hot buttons.

This clear split in ideology and political affiliations of God and Jesus is rumored to have been caused by an elite and empowered group of earthly clergyman, businessmen, career politicians, and higher income bracket individuals. They pray, worship, and aggressively hold on to literal beliefs of Old Testament teachings where God is described as being firm, decisive, strict, and black-and-white with no room for gray while bathing themselves in the New Testament with Jesus, blood of redemption and unconditional love for themselves.

Meanwhile, formerly oppressed groups such a blacks, women, gays/lesbians, and the financially and socially impoverished, oten pray, worship and aggressively embrace spiritual teachings of the New Testament of Jesus; a figure who stood for liberation, social justice, compassion, and unconditional love for everyone regardless of race, gender, income, or sexual orientation.

Both groups have been lobbying and petitioning God and Jesus separately, not really realizing that they,re one in the same. In addition, both groups claim to be doing the will of this heavenly Father-Son duo, but actually what has resulted is a deeply divided nation of blue and red states on nearly every socioeconomic issue known to man.

A series of peace talks between God and Jesus is being mediated by the Holy Spirit early next week to determine how best the world should apply their joint teachings, inclusive of both Testaments so that individuals are able to seek and understand the spiritual meaning of their collective word.

Even further, another priority during the God-Jesus conference, will be to strategize how best to educate clergy and laity alike on how to interpret scripture within its original 1st and 2nd century culture and language.

As yet another election year draws closer, the Angels in heaven are making repairs in heaven from the damage done by its earthly conservative family members, attempted divide and conquer invasion.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, one Angel is quoted as saying „if people of faith down there don,t get right soon, there will be hell to pay!‰

Herndon Davis is author of the inspirational/spirituality book, Black Gay & Christian as well as its follow-up, "Black Gay Spiritual Warfare" scheduled for release in Fall 2005. He has been spotlighted, highlighted, and profiled nationally and internationally in television, radio, print and internet media.

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BY MARY ROWLAND

What you need to know about the most basic estate planning document

What happens if I die without a will?

If you don't make a will or use some other legal method to transfer your property when you die, state law will determine what happens to your property. Generally, it will go to your spouse and children or, if you have neither, to your other closest relatives. (If you are part of an unmarried same-sex couple, the survivor will not inherit anything unless you live in one of the few states that allows registered domestic partners to inherit like spouses: California, Maine, and Vermont.) If no relatives can be found to inherit your property, it will go into your state's coffers.

In addition, in the absence of a will, a court will determine who will care for your young children and their property if the other parent is unavailable or unfit.

Do I need a lawyer to make my will?

Probably not. Making a will rarely involves complicated legal rules, and most people can draft their own will with the aid of a good self-help book or software program. You just need to know what you own and who you care about, and have a good self-help resource to guide you.

But if you have questions that aren't answered by the resource you're relying on, it's worth it to see a good lawyer. You don't have to turn over the whole project; simply ask your questions and then finish making your own will.

I don't have much property. Can't I just make a handwritten will?

Handwritten, unwitnessed wills, called "holographic" wills, are legal in about 25 states. To be valid, a holographic will must be written and signed in the handwriting of the person making the will; in some states it must also be dated. Some states allow you to use a fill-in-the-blanks form if the rest of the will is handwritten and the will is properly dated and signed.

A holographic will is better than nothing if it's valid in your state. But a will signed in front of witnesses is better. If a holographic will goes before a probate court, the court may be unusually strict when examining it to be sure it's legitimate. And if you don't have guidance -- from a good self-help resource or a good lawyer -- it's easy to write something that turns out to be ambiguous or even contrary to what you intended.

Can I use my will to name somebody to care for my young children in case someday I can't?

Yes. If both parents of a child die while the child is still a minor, another adult -- called a "personal guardian" -- must step in. The personal guardian will be responsible for raising your children until they become legal adults.

You and the child's other parent can use your wills to nominate someone to fill this position. To avert conflicts, you should each name the same person. If a guardian is needed, a judge will appoint your nominee as long as he or she agrees that it is in the best interest of your children.

What makes a will legal?

Any adult of sound mind is entitled to make a will. Beyond that, there are just a few technical requirements a will must fulfill:

- The document must expressly state that it's your will.
- You must date and sign the will.
- The will must be signed by at least two, or in Vermont, three, witnesses. The witnesses must watch you sign the will, though they don't need to read it. Your witnesses, in most states, must be people who won't inherit anything under the will. (If your state allows "holographic" wills, you don't need witnesses.

You don't have to have your will notarized. In many states, though, if you and your witnesses sign an affidavit (sworn statement) before a notary public, you can help simplify the court procedures required to prove the validity of the will after you die.

Can I leave property to young children in my will?

Children under 18 can inherit property -- but if it's anything valuable, an adult must manage it for them. You can use your will to name someone to manage property you leave to minors, avoiding the need for a court to appoint and supervise a guardian. Here are four simple ways to structure a property management arrangement:

1 Name a custodian under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act. In every state except South Carolina and Vermont, you can choose someone, called a custodian, to manage property you are leaving to a child. The custodian will step in to manage the property until the child reaches the age specified by your state's law -- 18 in a few states, 21 in most, 25 in several others.

2 Set up a trust for each child. You can use your will to create a trust for any property the child inherits, and name someone (called a trustee), to handle the trust property until the child reaches the age you specify.

3 Set up a "pot trust." If you have more than one child, you may want to set up just one trust for all of them. This arrange-

ment is usually called a pot trust. The trustee decides what each child needs, and spends money accordingly.

5 Name a property guardian. If you simply name a property guardian for your child, this person will manage whatever property the child inherits, if there's no other mechanism (a trust, for example) to handle it.

Must my will leave something to my spouse and children?

Disinheriting spouses. The law protects surviving spouses from being left with nothing. If you live in a community property state (Alaska (only if you have made a written community property agreement), Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin), your spouse automatically owns half of all the property and earnings (with a few exceptions) acquired by either of you during your marriage. You can leave your half of the community property, and your separate property, to anyone you choose.

In all other states, a surviving spouse has a legal right to claim a portion of your estate, no matter what your will provides. But these provisions kick in only if your spouse goes to court and claims that share.

If you don't plan to leave at least half of your property to your spouse, either through your will or outside it, you should consult a lawyer -- unless your spouse willingly consents in writing to your plan.

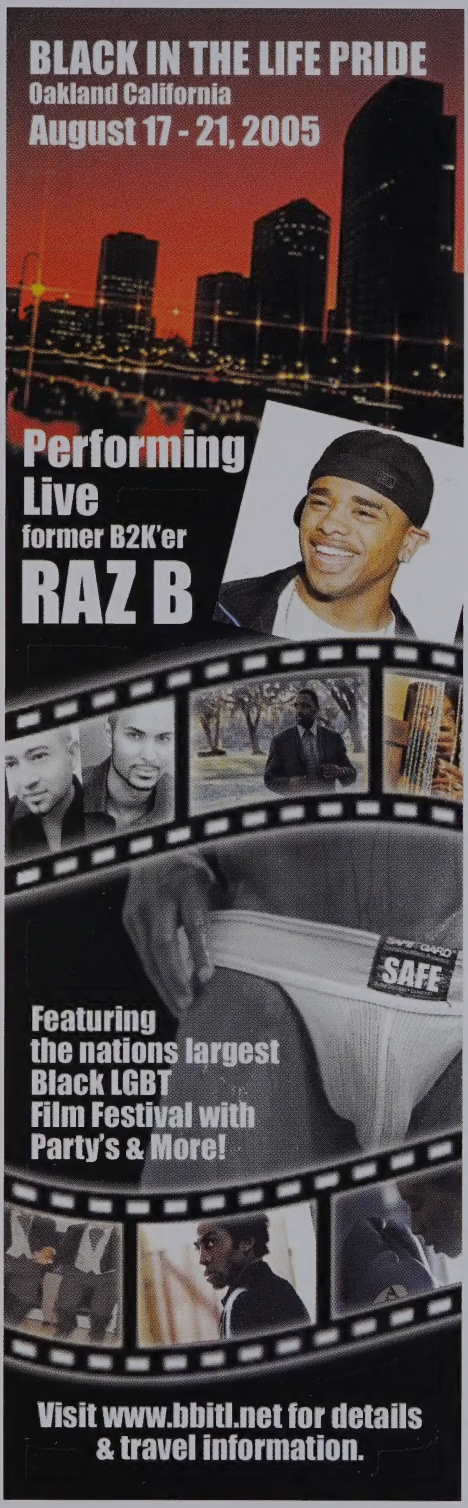
Disinheriting children. Generally, it's perfectly legal to disinherit a child. If, however, it appears that you didn't mean to disinherit a child -- the most common example is a child born after you made your will -- then the child has the right to claim part of your property. Some states go further. For example, the Florida Constitution prohibits the head of a family from leaving his residence to anyone other than a spouse if he is survived by a spouse or minor child.

Do I need to file my will with a court or in public records somewhere?

No. A will doesn't need to be recorded or filed with any government agency, although it can be in a few states. Just keep your will in a safe, accessible place and be sure the person in charge of winding up your affairs (your executor) knows where it is.

Can someone challenge my will after I die?

Very few wills are ever challenged in court. When they are, it's usually by a close relative who feels somehow cheated out of a share of the deceased person's property. To get an entire will invalidated, someone must go to court and prove that it suffers from a fatal flaw: the signature was forged, you weren't of sound mind when you made the will, or you were unduly influenced by someone.



Anthony Antoine
– CLOSETS ON FIRE –

Flameboi Records/Independent Artist Takes On Atlanta and America

The premiere jewel of unsigned and independent artists, Anthony Antoine is taking his music and mission to another level with the release of his groundbreaking CD Closets On Fire. Newark, New Jersey native Anthony Antoine , which is his birth-given first and middle name is delivering a compelling first full-length effort that celebrates themes of unabashed sexuality and empowerment all while encouraging dance to overcome adversity. The result is radio and club ready hits sure to lead to major Billboard success.

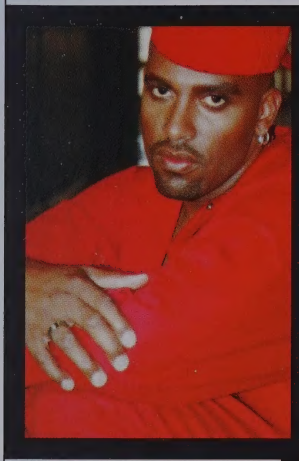
On Closets On Fire and the EP supporting the CD, Songs From My Closet , Anthony Antoine tackles a host of issues and boldly promotes experiences often not addressed in popular music. With influences including the songwriting skills of Babyface to the courage and musical activism of Me'Shelle Ndegeocello or Madonna, Anthony 's music has been described as a voice for a silenced community, a substantial record buying community who want to hear songs that reflect the morale and spirit of which they live.

Currently living in Atlanta, Anthony has been producing music now for over ten years and "performing since birth" he laughs and has had time to develop his craft while establishing a personal internal integrity that now reflects within his songs. In the hip-hop era of "keepin' it real" and against scores of new artists that are mere reproductions ofother artists, Antoine "keeps it real" like too few artist before him. Anthony Antoine has found his audience by self-producing and distributing his own music without record label dollars and support. The result is an unfiltered truth and innovation of popular music clearly ready for major label distribution and sales.

The self-proclaimed child of eighties music began his industry career after a gutsy move to London, England at the age of seventeen. "I wanted to create a story to tell for my life similar to young Madonna's move to New York." His move, what Anthony considers his "college years", placed him immediately in the heart of London's music scene where Anthony became a top session vocalist. Anthony worked with some of London's best including Paul Hardcastle, producer of the Billboard Top 20 hit "19" and Anthony 's first single, "Swing" by The Deff Boyz featuring Tony Mac: one of Anthony 's pseudonyms derived from players of the European music scene insisting that the American boy with the American accent in London should rap. "Swing" became an international dance club hit charting Top 40 on Billboard's Dance Chart and broke Top 40 on numerous European charts.

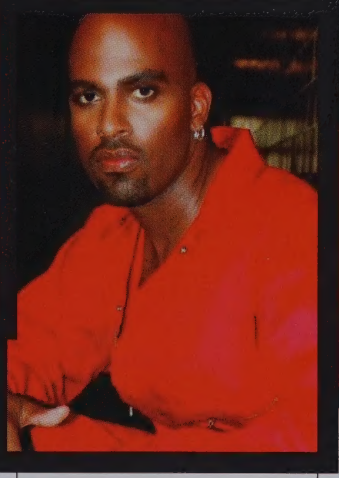
Over the next few years, Anthony lived much of his dreams of pop stardom becoming a recognizable artist in Europe releasing two more singles under the pseudonym Truth Anthony: his first,

independent ZYX Record's EP release What's Goin' Down , and the jazz influenced, Island Records' single "Under Your Spell" with London based international jazz artist Ronny Jordan. With songs in radio rotation, videos on MTV and a strenuous European tour schedule including opening act for C&C Music Factory, Anthony considers these years of his career as laying the foundation for his home in the music industry today.



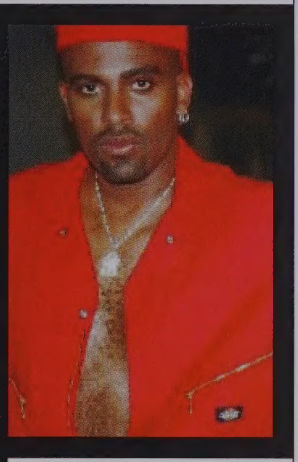
After six years in Europe, Anthony returned to the United States where these "college years" in London, and his subsequent graduating with honors from The Art Institute in Dallas, laid the seeds for the artist he is today. The initial capture of Anthony 's new outlook in life and song became most apparent in his fourth and most ambitious effort "Dante's Got A Man Too." Similar to the spirit that energized James Brown, Aretha Franklin and so much music that paralleled the Black Struggle in the 60's, Anthony's fourth release plays like a soundtrack of triumph in the face of his experienced life adversity. That spirit continues with the already released Songs From My Closet and the spring 2004 release of Closets on Fire , Anthony Antoine 's dream CD three years in the making.

Closets On Fire 's opening song "Raise" encourage listeners to grab the freedom that will release oppression in one's life. "The Consequence" asks a deceptive girlfriend what should be the consequence of cheating as he suggests making her body disappear forever as did his hopes and dreams of their now-failed relationship. Anthony's favorite on the CD, "Curiosity and The Hennessey" plays with a lover that uses intoxication, not sexuality as an excuse for habitual sex drive-bys. A highlight of the CD is the throw-back and infectious grove, "I Got The Moves". Anthony recorded this song with his baby's momma and lifetime best friend DanaLee singing the vocal hook, and their daughter Vogue Ashley doing an impressive guest rap vocal. It's a family affair jam and a testament to the integrity of Anthony Antoine as a man and an artist.



"I'm recording the album that I've always wanted to record: energetic, empowering, emotional and hit songs from start to finish." Anthony Antoine proudly explains this project as "me on CD. I'm using music to tell my story. Everyone, regardless of our differences, will be able to find something that resonates with him or her on this project."

If music is the universal language then this not-so-new artist Anthony Antoine speaks it fluently with Closets On Fire , the innovative CD revealing songs cleverly designed to find its unique space in music history but packaged and promoted in a way that is accessible to today's sophisticated music consumer



Clikque Has 18 Questions for Independent Recording Artist and Atlanta's Own Anthony Antoine

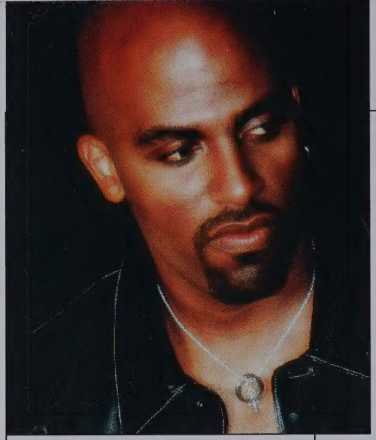
Why 18 Questions? It mirrors how many songs are on his new CD "Closets on Fire." Anthony explains, "there's a song for every year that a full length CD effort was my goal. 18 is my magic number right now."

1. WHERE ARE YOU FROM? I'm a Brick City baby. Newark's(NJ)in the house! But Atlanta is home.

2. WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN? Hang out with my daughter Vogue and her friends. A great day for me is taking her to the movies or us chilling in the house together watching old episodes of American Idol.

ON FIRE CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

CLOSETS ON FIRE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28



3. GOING TO MOVIES OR BLOCKBUSTER NIGHTS? It's the movies when I'm hanging with my crew of friends but I would always choose a Blockbuster night to get intimate. Actually, what do we need a movie for when we can create one of our own, that's the best nights.

4. Boxers or briefs? Neither really. Most days, I just like to hang. But I love underwear when dressing up. I especially love a pair of white Calvin Klein boxers, makes me feel clean and sanctified.

5. WHICH DECADE OF MUSIC DO YOU PREFER, THE 80'S, 90'S OR NOW? 80's Music was the best! I love music videos, synth music, Michael and Janet Jackson. And Sheila E. with "The Glamorous Life" album is from the 80's so surely 80's music is my favorite.

6. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MEAL? Seafood or the first single from "Closets on Fire." *wink*

7. WHAT ANIMAL CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? A puppy pitbull, cute and cuddly but can be trained to fight if necessary.

8. WHAT SUPERHERO CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR PERSONALITY? WHY? Wonder Woman because she ruled with the male superheroes effortlessly and I think women and gay men have a lot in common, especially in our struggle for social justice. My mom is a real life Wonder Woman and I strive to be a lot like my mom.

9. NAME 3 TV SHOWS THAT YOU HAVE TO WATCH? Will and Grace, Sex and the City and American Idol Season 3.

10. WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE? Use to be "Set It Off" but Quinton rocked that with "Kill Bill Vol. 1."

11. YOU'RE STUCK ON AN ABANDONED ISLAND, WHAT 4 THINGS DO YOU TAKE WITH YOU? My new CD "Closets on Fire" to remember a huge life accomplishment, my Jennifer Hudson (AI Season 3) demos *wait til you hear these songs - this girl is our time's best vocalist*, nude photos (Raz B of B2K, Lenny Kravitz, Dennis Rodman) to help with the lonely nights on an abandoned island and a picture of my daughter Vogue to remember the love of my life.

12. WHAT ARE 2 OF YOUR FAVORITE ALBUMS? Aretha Franklin's "Sparkle" and Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life." This music is timeless.

13. WHAT PERSON LIVING OR DEAD WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE A SITDOWN DISCUSSION WITH? It would have to be Oprah Winfrey or Luther Vandross. I've had sit down discussions with many people that I thought I never would, Sheila E. included which use to be my answer to this question. But it seriously hurts my heart that I never had a "kee-kee" with Luther.

14. WHY SHOULD WE BUY YOUR NEW CD? It's passionate music FUBU - for us, by us. It's a testimony that dreams do come true. I've worked for 18 years to have a full length CD and I continue to get my hustle on when it comes to producing and promoting songs created for us. It's not often that we will have a chance to support our own. And these songs speak to our lives, our experiences without changing pronouns. And it's good music, a damn good CD.

15. IF YOU WERE ELECTED PRESIDENT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU'D DO? I'd ship all homophobes to fight the war in Iraq and bring our troops home, legalize all gay marriages and make gay marriage constitutional and have a mandatory investigation and recount of American Idol's Season Three votes. Fantasia - I love you but Jennifer Hudson is on the way!

16. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO GET INTO THE RECORDING GAME? "You can do you better than anyone. So do you! We don't need another R.Kelly or Beyonce. Do you, cause no one can do you better. There's only one Anthony Antoine."

17. WHAT'S YOU'RE FAVORITE QUOTE? "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, but must be demanded by the oppressed," Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated. And my close friend Craig Washington states on my new CD "Closets on Fire" that "People are never really ready, the larger society is never really ready for social change. You just have to grab it, seize it, take it. And people will get ready, people will catch up." Both of these quotes motivate me as an artist and inspires why I do what I do in music.

18. HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND? There's a performance or two lined up independently and with The Adodi Muse. Naturally, there's a number of clubs to attend and selling my new CD "Closets on Fire" will occur all weekend. But most importantly, I'll be marching on Monday in The Stand Up and Represent March. It's year five for the march and this will surely be the highlight of my weekend.

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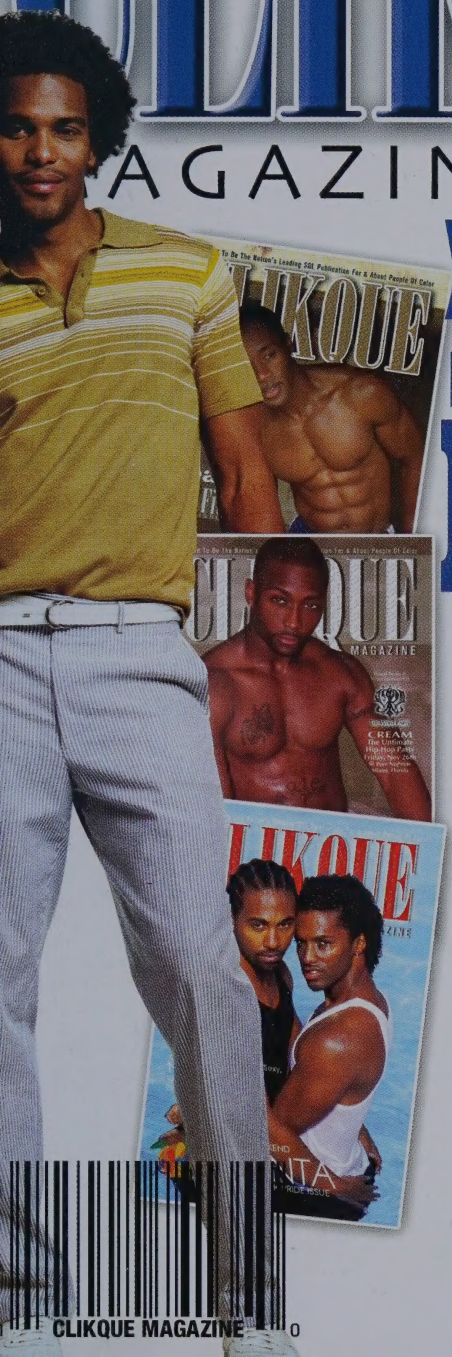

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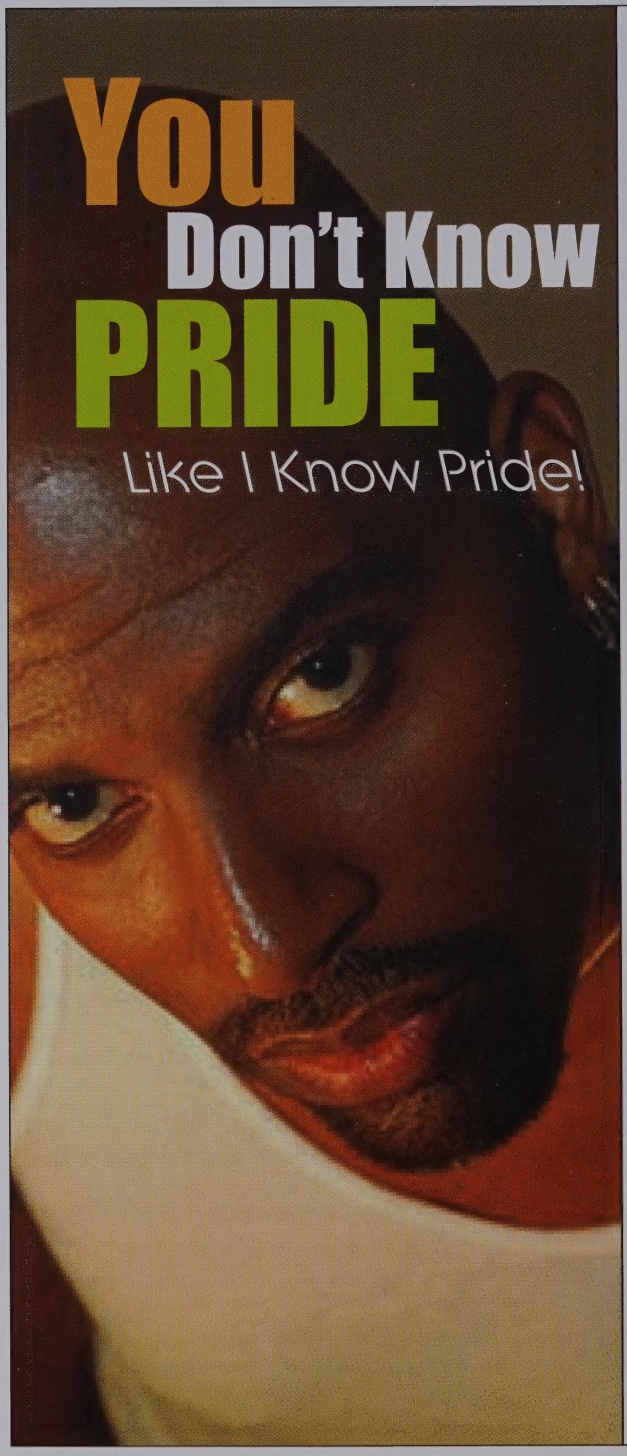


You Don't Know PRIDE

Like I Know Pride!

A weekend's worth of outfits planned - many of them new, gym memberships renewed and used, dollars begged, borrowed and spent, potential love interests dismissed or at least thwarted in preparation for the biggest, most important weekend of all of our lives - Black Gay Pride Weekend. Bigger than any terrorist attack, more important than our birthdays and a much larger turnout than the Presidential Elections. Trust, many more of us showed up outside Traxx last Saturday night than we did at the polls. As I type at my computer on the Thursday after (three days of recuperation) in a T-shirt that reads, "I SURVIVED BLACK GAY PRIDE WEEKEND IN ATLANTA," memorabilia from my first commemoration here in 1995, five celebrations later, I wonder, are we really celebrating Black Gay Pride?

I thought, maybe I need to get an official definition of pride to settle my concern and so I searched Encarta, which shared definitions that troubled me. "The correct level of respect for the importance and value of your personal character, life, efforts, or achievements," it read. Hmmm! Interesting! Troubling!

Then I remembered my early celebrations, where I lost count of the many phone numbers I had collected over the weekend. Don't act brand new! Yes, I kept count. Didn't we all keep count? There's a sport to collecting numbers, rules taught to me by my first gay mentors in Dallas. Loosing count was an immediate ten-point deduction from your total score of self-esteem. And what better time to garner self-esteem points than on Black Gay Pride Weekend, a time when a smorgasbord of men with phone numbers is before you. Out of town numbers are doubled bonus points adding to your self-worth and personal character. Everyone knows, the more numbers you collect, the worthier you are. That's elementary rules straight out of The Official Rules Book of Celebrating Black Gay Pride.

Combing the pages of additional rules, you'll find "Never Bring Sand to the Beach," "Never Wear an Outfit Twice, "Two Outfits Per Day," "Never Commit to Spending The Night with Someone Before

PRIDE CONTINUES ON PAGE 32

2005 VIP ALL ACCESS PASS

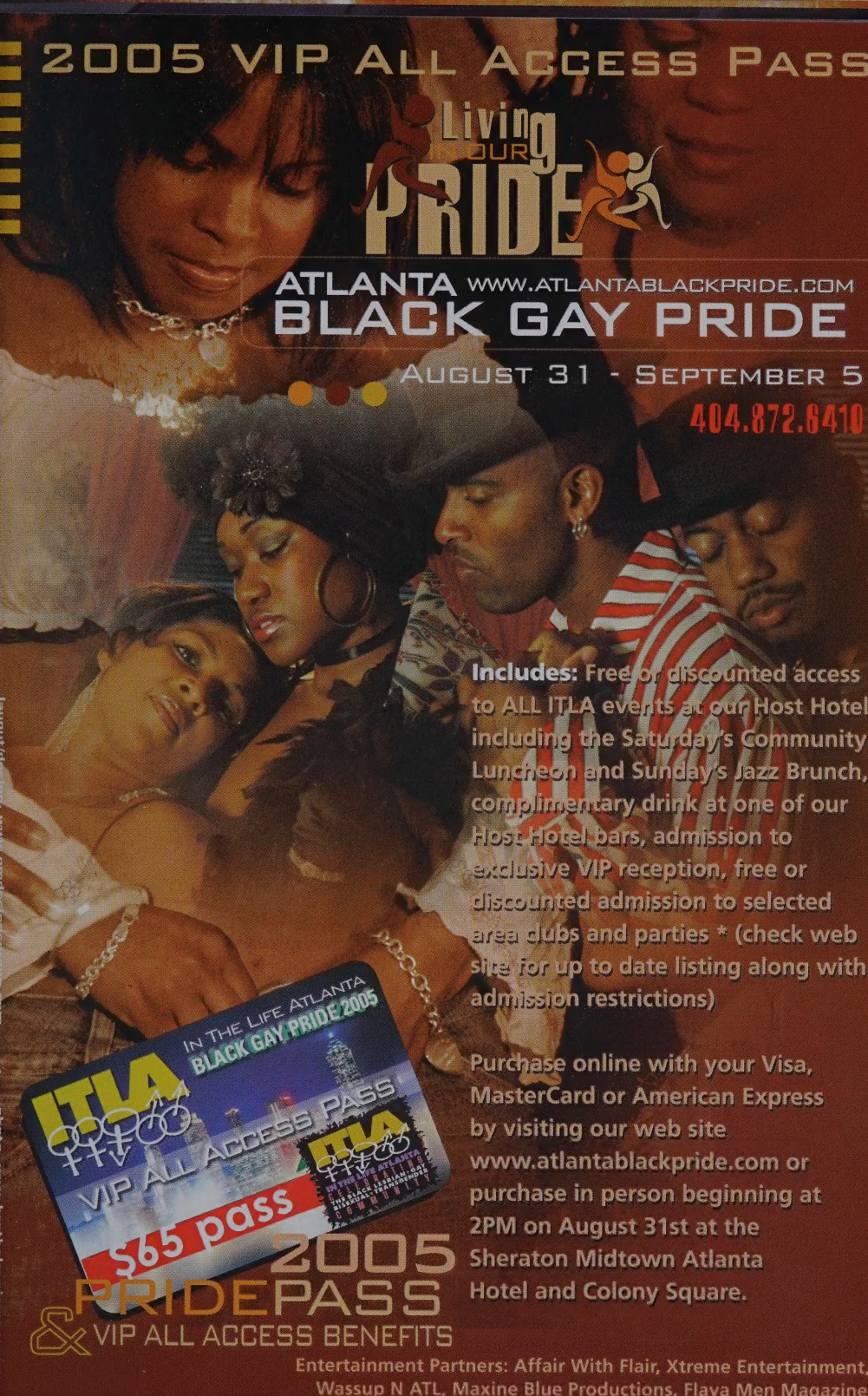
Living IN OUR PRIDE

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

WWW.ATLANTABLACKPRIDE.COM

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5

404.872.6410



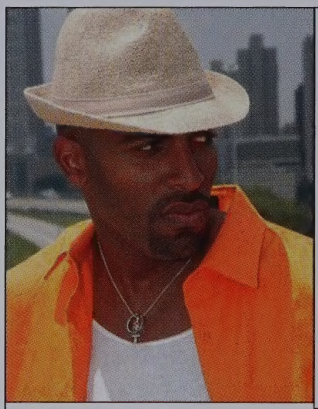
Includes: Free or discounted access to ALL ITLA events at our Host Hotel including the Saturday's Community Luncheon and Sunday's Jazz Brunch, complimentary drink at one of our Host Hotel bars, admission to exclusive VIP reception, free or discounted admission to selected area clubs and parties * (check web site for up to date listing along with admission restrictions)

Purchase online with your Visa, MasterCard or American Express by visiting our web site www.atlantablackpride.com or purchase in person beginning at 2PM on August 31st at the Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel and Colony Square.

2005 PRIDEPASS & VIP ALL ACCESS BENEFITS

Entertainment Partners: Affair With Flair, Xtreme Entertainment, Wassup N ATL, Maxine Blue Productions, Flava Men Magazine

PRIDE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30



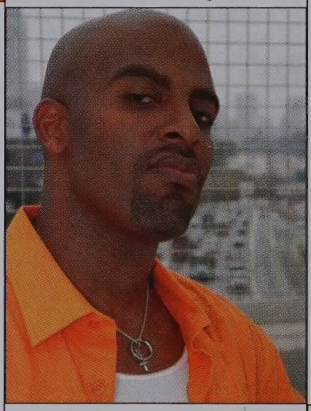
Midnight," and the entire chapter on "Sex." One nameless friend uses a scheduling book every pride celebration. This year alone, he counted eleven "sessions" over four days. The six o'clock must be gone by eight o'clock leaving enough time for another arrival at nine - and a shower, I hope.

"A weekend full of empty promises, empty spirit, and empty pockets," another friend who decided to leave town described the weekend. I remember feeling sad after we talked about it and I realized that even I had adopted some of the anxiety surrounding Atlanta's Labor Day weekend. My sadness was encouraged by many of my black gay brothas and sistas experiencing a huge "let-down" from the weekend, somehow believing that the Black Gay Pride celebration would unfold this magic that would save us from the rest of our uneventful lives. Years of experiencing this "let-down" will have us all leaving town during Black Gay Pride weekends.

Black Gay Pride weekend! Black Gay Pride celebration! These were our lessons. This is what I was taught about Black Gay Pride and the effervescent weekend.

But this year, something changed. Somehow, without a conscious effort, I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life. What was different for me this year? I realized that my weekend was no longer just about clubs, boys and sex but about a connection to a community. I really don't know the beginning of the metamorphosis but I thank God for it. I thank ITLA for it. I thank the men who attended Second Sunday and those that utilized AID Atlanta's services. Don't get me wrong. I used my job at AID Atlanta as an excuse to "work" the lobby, the runway of the host hotel and Boris (my truck) honked at all the cute black gay folks as we drove by. I asked Boris not to be so obvious about his excitement that so many black gays and lesbians had taken over Hotlanta. But my primary goal for being at the host hotel was to test people for HIV and that made me feel proud.

Clearly, something had changed. In the years pasts, being away from the club would make me feel empty. Now I feel empty for my friends who were missing the work-

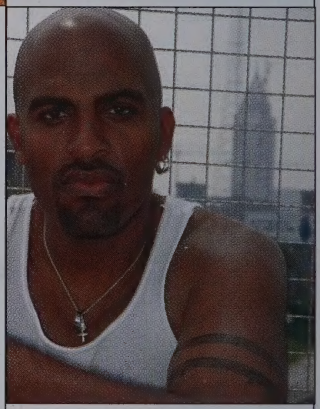


shops, business networking, performances, poetry events, bonding and friendship - the true celebrations of the weekend. Most of my good friends celebrated in the same-ole way we have every year, make it home at 5 am, sleep until 5pm, eat, quick work-out and then off to the club. Now, if this is your only pride celebration, you can deduct ten points from your total score of self-esteem.

I feel Pride! I lived and continue to live Pride! I am PROUD! Another Encarta definition for the word "pride" is the spirit motivating me, why I'm writing this today. "The happy, satisfied feeling somebody experiences when having or achieving something special that other people admire," it read. For those who have asked, search, and begged for a true celebration of Black Gay Pride, I offer you this and a few websites for future reference.

I've just lived the best Black Gay Pride weekend of my life and it wasn't because of the clubs, parties or the boys but because I am now connected to a community, a LGBTQ COMMUNITY of people that love and affirm who I am as a black gay man. I collected not one phone number this year and my self-esteem flourishes. Watching Shane Johnson tear up as 400 black gay marchers and supporters culminated onto West End Park for The Stand Up and Represent March was better than sex. And I believe I've had the best sex known to two (or three or four) men.

All in the spirit of what I now know and embrace to be black gay PRIDE, I partied this year, partied so hard that I was tired and in bed by eleven each night. If you missed this celebration of Black Gay Pride, you truly missed the celebration. If blessings allow, you'll have another opportunity next year. Like my momma said, "If you keep doing what you've always done, you'll keep getting what you've always gotten." And somebody's grand momma said, "When you know better, you do better." I'm inviting you to a true celebration of pride, one that won't leave you confused about what we've celebrated, one where you can't help but to feel PRIDE, true Black Gay PRIDE.



How will you celebrate Black Gay Pride? Trust me on this, the best Black Gay Pride weekend will unfold for you when you celebrate your pride all year round. And this celebration doesn't even preclude you from making it to The Lion's Den before the crowd kicks in.

TAKING PRIDE IN
HEALTHY LIVING CONFERENCE
Sheraton Midtown Atlanta at Colony Square
Saturday, September 3rd – Sunday September 4th
ATLANTA WWW.ATLANTABLACKPRIDE.COM
BLACK GAY PRIDE
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5
Living IN OUR PRIDE
Join In The Life Atlanta for a two-day conference designed to help you live a healthier and more productive life. This unique conference focuses on your entire well-being. We will help you understand the unique challenges we as LGBT people of color face in our lives, physically and mentally, and provide you with tools to manage those challenged on a daily basis.
Saturday September 3rd, 2005
• Interactive and informative Workshops – addressing family, sexuality, relationships, adoption, transgender issues, youth issues, financial health, and many more.
• Health and Wellness Fair – focusing on physical, environmental, and holistic health
• Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion – luncheon buffet with noted speakers and panelist
Sunday September 4th, 2005
• Continuation of Workshops
• Interfaith Worship Service
• Jazz Brunch
Event Partners: Dekalb County Board of Health, Fulton County Health Department, Georgia State Department of Human Resources – PAUSE Campaign
INFO@INTHELIFEATL.COM
404.872.6410
ITLA
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
CELEBRATING
THE BLACK LESBIAN • GAY
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COMMUNITY
layout/design: www.emdesignsgroup.com • photo: www.brothaloveimages.com

DON'T MISS THE LARGES
ATLANTA WWW.ATLANTABLACKPRIDE.COM
BLACK GAY PRIDE
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5
IN THE WORLD!
Wednesday, August 31st, 2005
• Registration Begins – Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel at Colony Square
Thursday, September 1st
• Candlelight Vigil
• Annual GLBT Career Fair & Techno
ogy Center Expo
Friday, September 2nd
• Annual GLBT Career Fair & Techno
ogy Center Expo
• VIP Reception
• Welcome Reception and Opening
Ceremony Celebration
• Black Pride Market Place presente
by ID Lube
• SpeakFire! – an evening of erotic
open mic poetry and personal
expression (Midnight)
• La Gender Drag Show
• Technology Lounge
Saturday, September 3rd
• Taking Pride in Healthy Living
Conference Day 1
ITLA
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
CELEBRATING
THE BLACK LESBIAN • GAY
BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY
INFO@INTHELIFEATL.COM
404.872.8410

- Community Luncheon and Panel Discussion
- Workshop Series Day 1
- Health and Wellness Fair

- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- 2005 Poetry Slam
- See Us In The Life Film Festival
- Punany Poets presents "Head Doctor"
- Technology Lounge

Sunday, September 4th

- Interfaith Worship Service
- Jazz Brunch with live Jazz performances by local artists
- Taking Pride in Healthy Living Conference Day 1
- Literary Café
- The Dating Game presented by Together In Love
- Black Pride Fashion Show Extravaganza
- Black Pride Market Place presented by ID Lube
- Technology Lounge

Monday, September 5th

- Stand up and Represent Black Pride March (from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center to the Georgia State Capitol Building)

Visit our website at www.atlantablackpride.com for complete and up to date listing of events and activities

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AIDS

THUGG
SIZ
CLUB 708
708 Spring St. • Atlanta, GA

ED OUT

LING BLACK PRIDE WEEKEND

AUG. 31ST - SEPT. 7TH

Sizzling Black Pride Weekend Line Up...

WEDNESDAY 8/31 & 9/7
"MINI BALL WEDNESDAY"
Hosted by: Andre Givenchy

THURSDAY 9/1
"The Arrival of the THUGS and the LADIES who like to party with the THUGS.
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
FREE B4 11:30pm • 10pm - 5:30am

FRIDAY 9/2
THUGGED OUT BLACK-OUT FRIDAY
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK Atl. • CLUB 714: DJ GOOSE, ATL CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SATURDAY 9/3
"THUGS 'N' DA HOOD"
1 Whole Block, 1 Huge Building
3 Big Ass Clubs (Inside Entry to All 3 Clubs)
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 714: DJ Goose, ATL
CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
20 Hottest Dancers from all over the USA
9pm - 7am

SUNDAY 9/4
"THUGS NIGHT OUT" The After Party
@ 708 we party 'til the sun comes up
CLUB 708: DJ JFK ATL. • CLUB 718: DJ Unknown, NY
10pm - 6am, all other clubs close at 2:45am

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST IN PIEDMONT PARK"
The Biggest Concert in Black Prides History
Performing Live: Crime Mobb • Maceo • D4L • Jara Rasheeda • Boyz n Da Hood • The Incredibles & more
Hosted By: "Slyman & Dirty South"
BET Comic View • (DJ JFK ATL)
Gates Open @ 2pm, Showtime @ 5pm

MONDAY 9/5
"THUG-FEST MELT DOWN"
Variety Show @ CLUB 708
Calling all Singers, Rappers, Dancers
Whatever Your Talent is:
$1000.00 Grand Prize to the winner
Hosted by: "Slyman & Black Stallion"
BET Comic View
(DJ JFK ATL)
10pm - 5am

TUESDAY 9/6
"THE ILLUSION"
Hosted by: Dee Franklin Thomas & Lady T
Cash Prizes To Be Awarded
Male and Females Dancers
Contact: Deidre Black (678)558-9169
DJ GOOSE, ATL)
Doors Open @ 10pm

4 BIG ROOMS • 3 LEVELS
2 DANCE FLOORS
1 HUGE ASS CLUB!!!

Host Hotel: WESTIN PEACHTREE PLAZA • Reservation#: (800)937-8461 • Code: CLUB 708
Rates: Double & Single Occupancy $109.00, Tripple $129.00, Quad $149.00, Suites $250.00
Official Carrier: DELTA AIRLINES • Reservation#: (800)221-1212
Official RENT-A-CAR • Reservation number: (800) 654-2240 • Code: CV022Q2364
Weekly Rates from: $174.99 Compact/4D to $316.99 per week for convertibles.
Official Gym: METROPOLITAN FITNESS (Formerly RUN "N" SHOOT)
1959 Metropolitan Parkway $5.00 per day (404)767-7125 • Code: CLUB 708

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THE MAIN EVENT

During our absence we have trained vigorously to provide you with the most intense, invigorating and dramatic event of all time. Remember we have remained the PIONEERS of this industry and the original source of Atlanta's Nightlife Entertainment... catering to every facet of the gay community and we will continue to due so at

ATLANTA'S BLACK PRIDE 2005

Saturday Sept. 3rd - Tuesday, Sept. 6th

"Lets see who will be left standing!!!"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

THE KNOCKOUT

"Can you take the blow?"

@ Atlanta Live • 3595 Clairmont Rd

Join over 5,000 men partying to the hardest and most ferocious beats pulsating through 55,000 watts of power generated by the nation's most requested DJ's

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz

The District Mother - DJ Sederick & DJ Meistro

Spinning Hip-Hop, House, Reggae and R&B

Also featuring our alluring world class Go Go Dancers

Gracing 3 Dramatic Stages

Doors Open @ 12 Noon, Sat., Sept. 3rd

Doors Close @ 12 Noon, Sun., Sept. 4th

Bar Stays Open All Day & Night

CAN YOU LAST 24 HOURS?

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

TKO

"We are going to hit you hard!!!"

5479 Memorial Drive • (770)912-2992

Traxx 1st Official Indoor Pool Party

Featuring our Nationally Renowned Hot Boy Contest!

Come and get Wet & Wild with over 1,000 goregous men splashing in 2 indoor pools with waves crashing to hip hop and house beats created by:

DJ Meistro & DJ Keith Stephens

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

TRAXX in association with

ATLANTA'S BLACK GAY PRIDE

Nightclubs, Promoters, and Sponsors

- presents -

THE UNITY PICNIC

Free Food, Hot Music & One hell of a Good Time

Location: TBA

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

THE CONTENDER

"The night that continues to remain undefeated"

@ Atlanta Live • 3595 Clairmont Rd

Join over 2,000 men partying until dawn with hard hitting Hip Hop beats produced by:

Hot 107.9's DJ Truz & DJ Meistro

Don't miss the culminating Party of the year!!!

THUGGED OUT TUESDAYS

"The original hip hop phenomenon"

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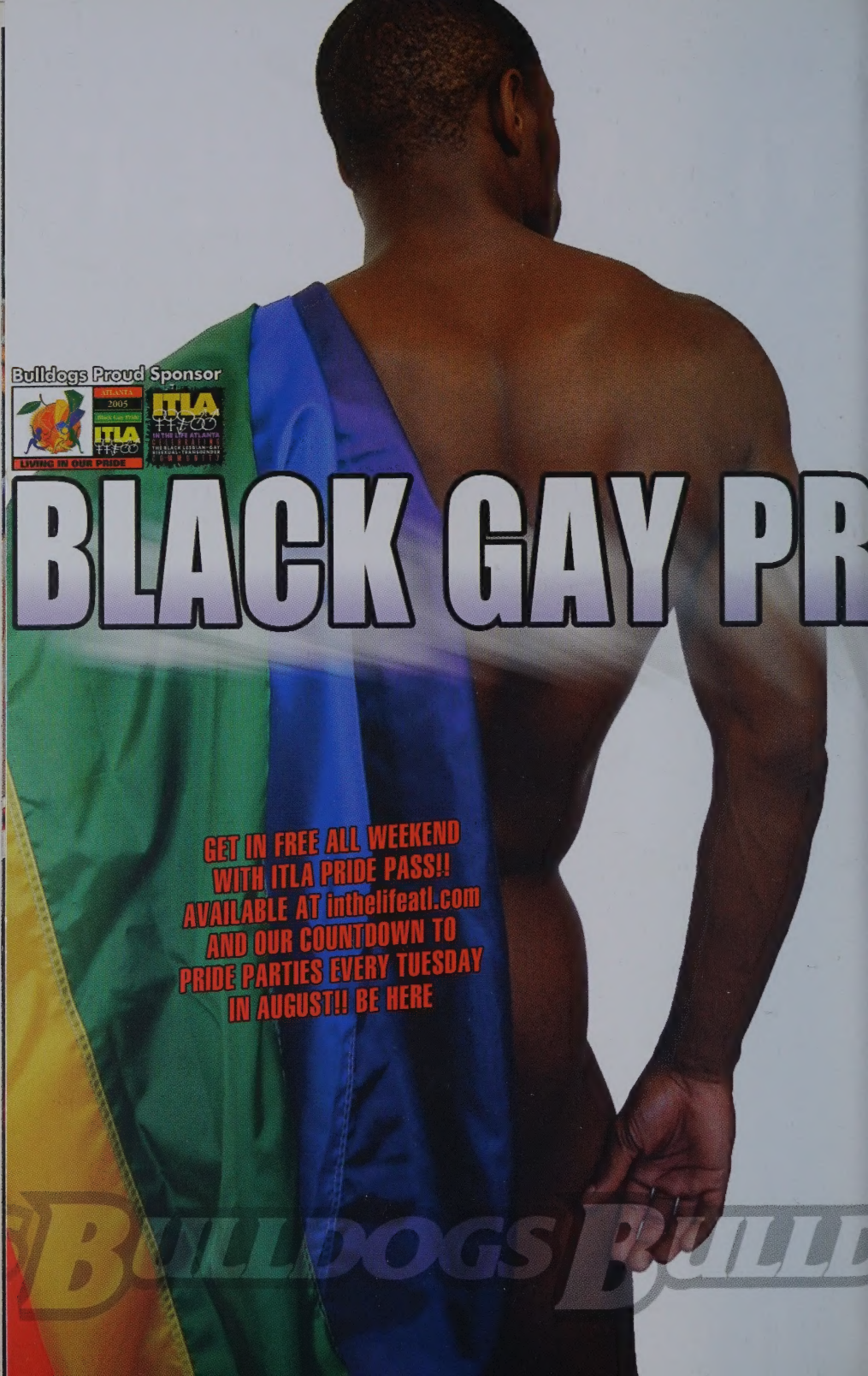
18 to party, 21 drink

NTA BLACK PRIDE 2005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LIVING IN OUR PRIDE
BLACK GAY PR
GET IN FREE ALL WEEKEND
WITH ITLA PRIDE PASS!!
AVAILABLE AT inthelifeatl.com
AND OUR COUNTDOWN TO
PRIDE PARTIES EVERY TUESDAY
IN AUGUST!! BE HERE
BULLDOGS

wednesday aug. 31

first encounter

pre-party with the first arrivals
dj andre brown

thursday sept. 1

foreplay

the hottest welcome party to atlanta
stimulating sight, sound and feel
dj jazz
plus the first 100 customers after 8pm
get a free bulldogs black pride tee!!!

friday sept. 2

tantalize

sexy hot bodies moving in a groove
dj jazz

DE LABOR DAY

saturday sept. 3

desire

urge toward complete enjoyment
4pm to 8pm onyx - after dj andre brown
THICCBOI PRODUCTIONS 4th annual
big boy meet & greet - hosted by
stan and ej from 5pm to 8pm

sunday sept. 4

climax

the extreme party of full sensual fulfillment
cookout on our big deck at 6pm
special holiday hours - open till 3 am
dj andre brown

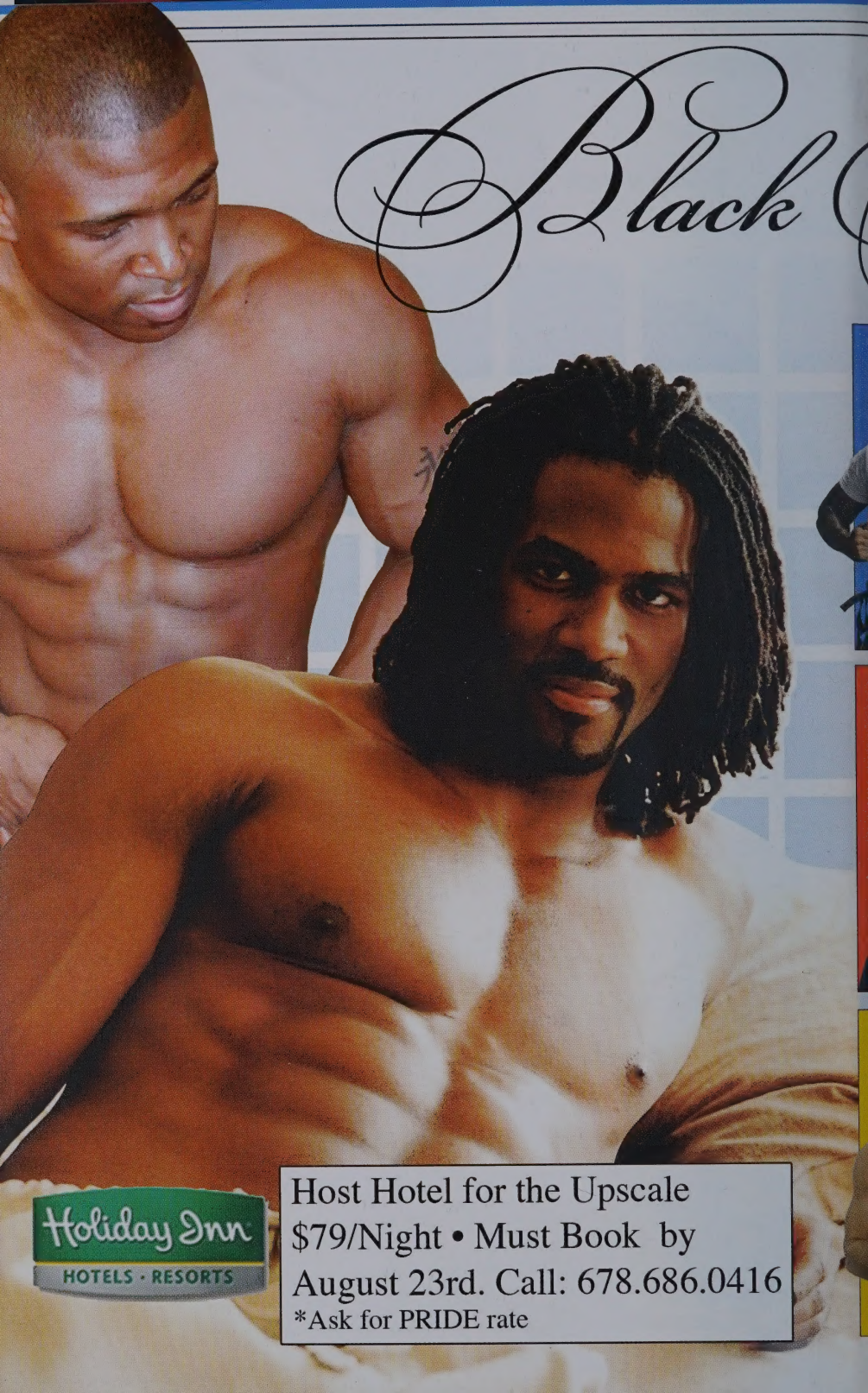
monday sept. 5

naked

take your shirt off, get in *free*
cookout on tour party deck at 6pm
dj jazz

BULLDOGS

893 Peachtree St. 404 872-3025
Atlanta, GA Open Daily 4pm-3am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HOTELS · RESORTS
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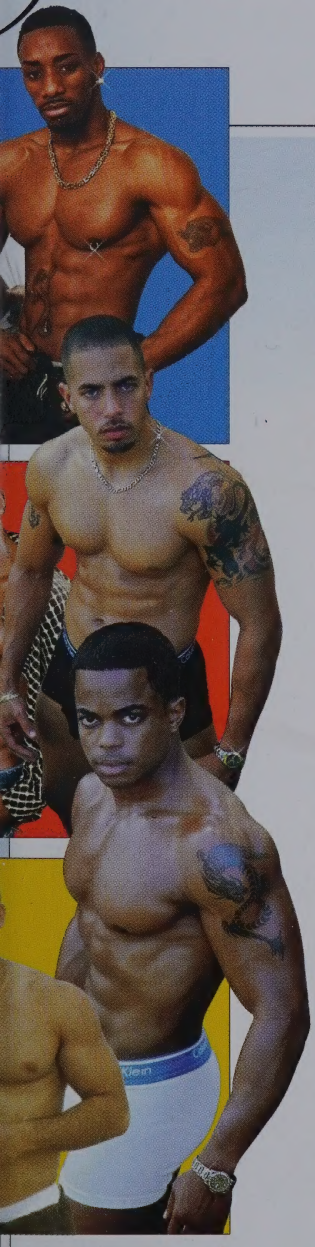
Pride Atlanta

with the Divas



Monday:
Stars of The Century
@ The Jungle
2115 Faulkner Rd

Wednesday:
Stripper Showdown
@ The Imperial
5395 Jimmy Carter Blvd.

Thursday:
All For One Night
@ CoCo LoCo
1296 Morland Ave

Friday:
Hot Papi Night
@ The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy.

Saturday:
Grown Folks Party
@ Knights Hall
2620 Buford Hwy.

Sunday:
Legendary Hip-Hop Night
@ The Chaparral
2715 Buford Hwy

OzonEntertainment presents...

THE SEXIEST LABOR DAY LINE-UP IN THE ATL

Thursday, September 1, 2005

XTASY THURSDAY'S

BRINGING YOU THE HOTTEST & BEST LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

with Host Comedian

MS. SOPHIA MCINTOSH

PHASE ONE

4933 MEMORIAL DR. - DECATUR, GA 30083

Doors Open 10:00 p.m. - Until - Showtime: 12:00 a.m.

Friday, September 2, 2005

MANHUNT FRIDAY'S

(2 BUILDINGS FOR 1 BIG PARTY)

HIP HOP & HOUSE MUSIC ALL NITE LONG

COME CHECK OUT THE HOTTEST MALE PARTY IN THE ATL,

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WITH THE OZONE DANCERS ALL NIGHT LONG

with Host MC BUSTA LUV

& DJ TRUZ

TOWER II

735 RALPH MCGILL - ATLANTA, GA 30312

Doors open 10:00 p.m. - Until

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"DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF

For More Info:: 678.296.0678 - Outside Atlanta: 1.866.35ozone

DESIGNED BY THIERRY JONES 404-691-9270

And You Don't Want To Miss....
Monday, September 5, 2005
2ND ANNUAL EXOTIC DANCER
COMPETITION
Purchase Tickets Online @ www.ozonentertainment.com
ATLANTA LIVE
3595 CLAIRMONT ROAD, DECATUR, GA 30319
For Directions Call 404.477.0404
$2,000.00
GRAND PRIZE
WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL DANCERS TO COMPETE, IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES CALL 866.35.OZONE
TERTAINMENT
GET IN THE ZONE WITH OZONENTERTAINMENT."
Web site: www.ozonentertainment.com - Email: Ozonent@aol.com

Announcing!

The Lion's Den - Labor Day

Friday, 09.02.05 - 6:30PM - 10:00PM

The Lion's Den Welcome to Atlanta Reception

The Sheraton Hotel Buckhead (Directly Across From Lenox Mall)
3405 Lenox Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 (404) 261-9250

MEET & GREET WITH SOME OF THE MOST PROLIFIC AFRICAN AMERICAN GAY AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS OF THE YEAR!!

Featuring

- Keith Boykin (Best Selling Author) - "Beyond The Down Low"
- J.L. King (Best Selling Author) - "On The Down Low"
- James Earl Hardy (Best Selling Author) - "A House Is Not A Home"
- Walter Wright (Self-Published Author) - "One Night Stand"
- Belasco (Internationally Known Erotic Illustrator) - "The Brothers of New Essex"
- Complimentary Buffet / Drink Specials / Music / Various Vendors
- Give-aways / Prizes / Lion's Den Calendar Models

Saturday, 09.03.05 - 6:30PM - Until

The Lion's Den Wet Dream Pool Party

The Sheraton Hotel Buckhead
3405 Lenox Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329 - (404) 261-9250

BREAK OUT THAT SEXY SWIM SUIT FOR THE HOTTEST POOL PARTY & FASHION EVENT IN THE CITY!

Featuring

- Spectacular Fashion Show Event
- Sexy, Erotic Dancers from all over the Country!!!
- The Ultimate DJ Squad
- The Lion's Den Hot Body Contest - $300 Cash Prize
- Various Vendors / Give-aways / Prizes

Sunday, 09.04.05 - 8:00PM - Until

The Lion's Den – Earthquake Party

Visit www.thelionsdenatlanta.com for Party Location
Info Hot Line: (770) 991-6929

WE'RE ABOUT TO SHAKE IT UP IN HERE!!

Featuring

- Sexy, Erotic Dancers from all over the Country!!!!
- The Ultimate DJ Squad!
- Vendors! / Give-aways! / Prizes!

Monday, 09.05.05 - 10:00PM - Until

The Lion's Den – Pleasuredome @ The Compound

1008 Brady Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30318 - (404) 872.4621

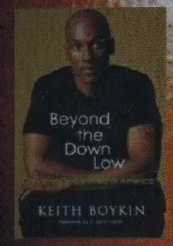
WE'RE STILL SHAKING IT UP!

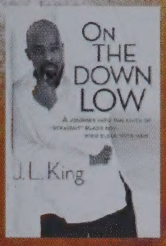
Featuring

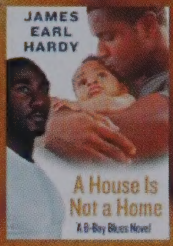
- Sexy, Erotic Dancers from all across the Country!!!
- The Ultimate DJ Squad
- Various Vendors / Give-aways / Prizes

www.thelionsdenatlanta.com

Weekend Mega Party Events







The Official Host Hotel

The Sheraton Hotel Buckhead - (Directly Across From Lenox Mall)

3405 Lenox Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329

(404) 261-9250 or (800) 325-3535

Room Rate: Only $79.00 per night / Suite Rate: $129.00 per night

Make Your Reservation NOW!

SPECIAL DISCOUNT RATE FOR ALL XTREME/LION'S DEN GUEST

Avis Rent A Car – (Inside the Sheraton Hotel – Buckhead)

3405 Lenox Road, Atlanta, GA 30326

Call (404) 261-5998 / (404) 261-9250 to make reservations

Rental Rates:

Midsize - $18.39 per day – Reservation Code (XTREME/13126328US5)

Fullsize - $22.39 per day – Reservation Code (XTREME/13126711US3)

SUV - $36.29 per day – Reservation Code (XTREME/13126960US0)

Reservation Requirements: Must be 25 years of age, must possess a valid drivers license, and a major credit card. Rental Rates good from September 1st thru September 5th. Rates are only valid for pick up at Avis-Buckhead. Vehicle may be dropped off at Avis-Downtown or Avis @ Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

"The Ultimate DJ Squad"

DJ Sedrick – The District House Mutha, DJ Truz of Hot 107.9 and the Sexy & Sensational DJ JFK.

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CELEBRATING
THE BLACK LESBIAN • GAY BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

The Lion's Den is a proud supporter of In The Life Atlanta!

VIP Passes Available

For More Information Visit Website

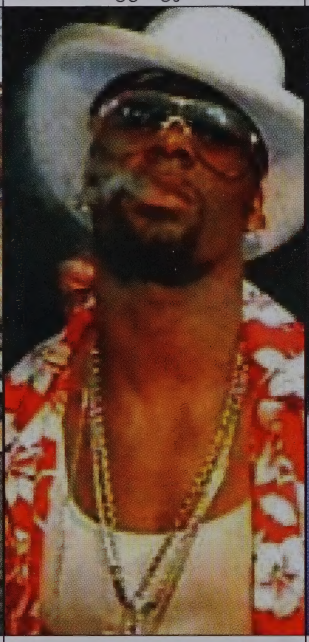
Info Hot Line (770) 991-6929

Designed by Thierry Jones 404-691-9270

ARTICLE BY KEITH BOYKIN

The Liar, the Predator and the Closeted Guy

Could it be a coincidence that R&B legend Luther Vandross passed away in the same week when Terry McMillan's divorce to a gay man became public and R. Kelly's new "Trapped In The Closet" music video outed a closeted gay man?



Just hours after Logo launched the first ever gay television channel on basic cable and Sandra Day O'Connor resigned from the Supreme Court, our heads were spinning with news that Luther Vandross had died at 54.

The night before, in the very first show to air on Logo (a documentary called "The Evolution Will Be Televised"), gay activist Urvashi Vaid had warned gays and lesbians that visibility does not equal understanding.

She's right, of course, but those of us who are black and gay are still struggling just to be visible. We are still waiting for more of our own heroes to come out or be seen, but like the characters in R. Kelly's musical soap opera, too many of us are still trapped in our own closets.

But some of the black gay men who have been visible recently are not our best representatives. No matter what else he does in life, for example, Jonathan Plummer will always be remembered as Terry McMillan's gay spouse, left to be immortalized like Bobby Brown being introduced to the Dali Lama as "Whitney Houston's husband."

McMillan's husband claimed in court records (published online at thesmokinggun.com) that he did not know he was gay when he met and married his famous companion. Yet down low "expert" J.L. King, quickly pronounced Plummer's explanation not just implausible, but impossible. "Nonsense," King told the Washington Post. "He knew he was gay."

I'm not sure if Plummer is telling the truth, but his story is certainly plausible. I know because I came out when I was 25 years old, and I never knew I was gay and never slept with a man before that time.

So how would King know the mental state of a 20-year-old Jamaican man he apparently never met? And how does someone like King, who can't even decide if he's straight or bisexual, become a spokesperson for the black LGBT community? Welcome to the media depiction of black gays and lesbians.

Just in time for the McMillan controversy–in a choice almost as ironic as the casting of the closeted gay actor Rock Hudson to play the San Francisco Police Commissioner in the 1970's television show "McMillan and Wife"–the producers at the "Oprah Winfrey Show," on hiatus for the summer, scheduled a July 7 re-run of the controversial "down low" episode that first catapulted King to public attention 15 months earlier.

But there was another hitch to this story. Plummer accused McMillan of hurling hateful homophobic epithets at him after he told her he was gay. "I'm black and rich again and female and I'm smarter than you and an army of fags," McMillan allegedly wrote to him in January. I asked openly gay author E. Lynn Harris, a personal friend of McMillan's, and he told me that "Terry is not homophobic. It's not fun going through a breakup of any sort," he said. "It becomes even more difficult when you're a public figure."

And then there is Luther, the quintessential balladeer of our time, a wealthy and successful bachelor with a beautiful voice who, fat or thin, could have easily found a wife but never married and hardly even bothered to fake a heterosexual lifestyle. When asked about his sexuality in a 2002 interview with BET, Vandross simply said it was none of their business. It was an honest answer that no straight celebrity would ever give.
A
But in the black community, we still subscribe to the policy of "don't ask, don't tell," which may explain why some blacks are upset by efforts to out Vandross posthumously, as if being gay would somehow mar his already extraordinary career.

What people don't understand is that black gays and lesbians are desperate for affirming images of ourselves. While the white gays get Ellen, Elton and the "Queer Eye" guys, we're stuck with J.L. King, the poster boy for the down low, Jonathan Plummer, a gay man who deceived a famous wife, and Othniel Askew, the black gay man who murdered a New York City councilman a year ago this month. We rarely see positive stories about us in the media, and when straight blacks attempt to tell our stories, they depict us as scandalously as the closeted gay pastor in R. Kelly's music video.

That's why we're so anxious to clutch onto Luther. We're eager to find realistic images that reflect the true diversity of who we are. And that's why we have to tell our own stories.

This month, a new film called "The Ski Trip" will debut on Logo, becoming the first black gay film on television. It is produced and directed by black gays and lesbians. That's a refreshing change from the pathological portrait of black gay men in the media recently.

If the media could spend half as much time telling these stories as we've spent talking about the down low and Terry McMillan's divorce, we wouldn't have as many black gays and lesbians trapped in the closet. And maybe one day, a new Luther will sing our song instead of R. Kelly.

KEITH BOYKIN

Born on the anniversary of Dr. King's famous March on Washington, Keith Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on race, sexuality and politics. A former White House aide to President Clinton, Keith is also a New York Times bestselling author, reality television star, lawyer, educator and activist.

Keith appeared on the Showtime television series American Candidate and is a frequent presence in the media. He has appeared on VH1, BET, CNN, Fox News, NPR, and numerous other television and radio programs. He has been featured on the cover of several publications including A&U, Out and The Advocate, and he was selected as one of Out Magazine's 100 most intriguing people of 2004. He has also been featured or quoted in articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today and JET magazine.

Down For *Whatever*

By Frederick Smith

In his debut, DOWN FOR WHATEVER (Kensington; July 5, 2005; trade paperback), Frederick Smith has created a mesmerizing first novel in the tradition of E. Lynn Harris and James Earl Hardy that follows the lives of four friends, each hoping to realize their dreams and find true love in the town where all the world's a stage - and everyone's a player. Keith, Tommie, Marco Antonio, and Rafael each ended up in LA. for different reasons, via different paths, from Mexico to Michigan, from the Ivy League to the streets. But they have one thing in common - they're all looking for Mr. Right.

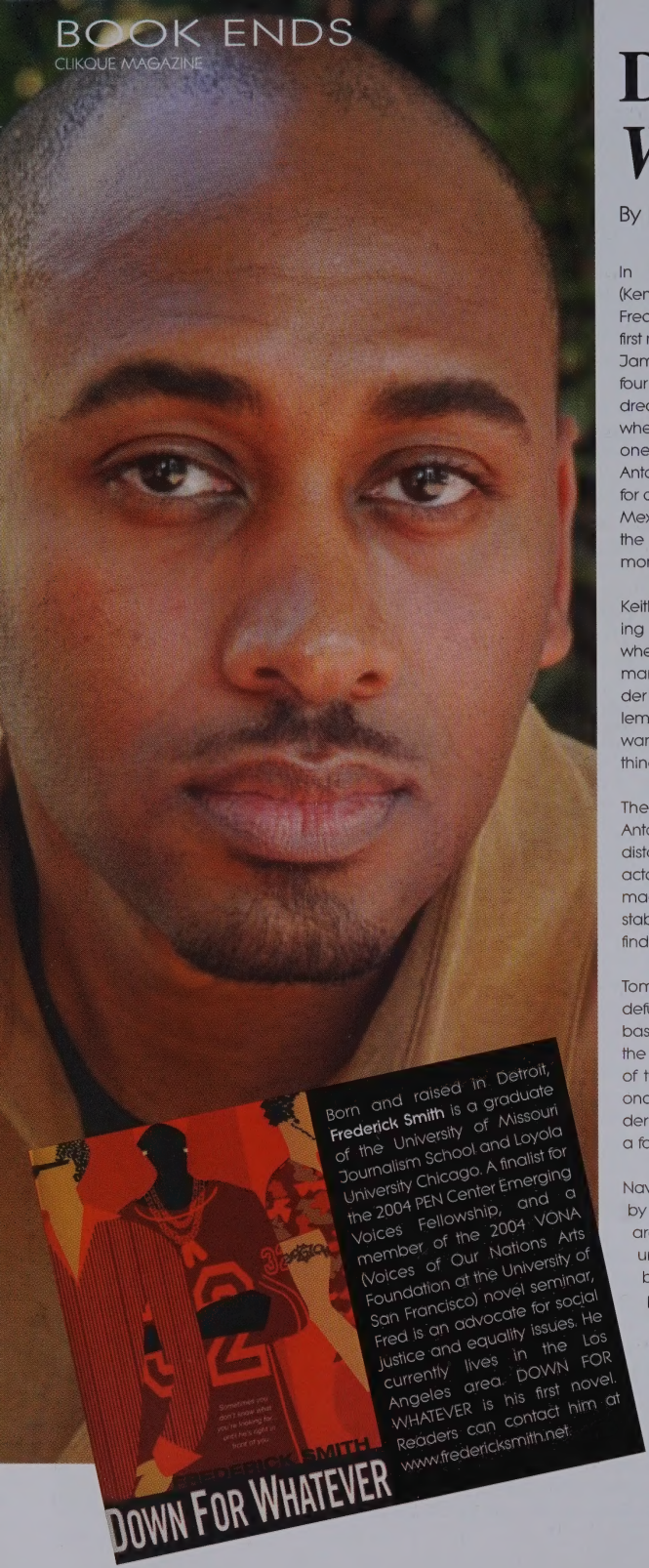
Keith, a preacher's son from Detroit, is looking for love in all the wrong places. But when Cupid answers his prayers with a man who's hot and smart, he's got to wonder if it's too good to be true. Rafael's problem is that he doesn't really know what he wants - so he's willing to try just about everything.

The most stable of the group, Marco Antonio is finally closing the deal on a long-distance romance with an up-and-coming actor. But when the Hollywood celebrity machine interferes, Marco yearns for the stability of a regular guy - and eventually finds himself torn between two lovers.

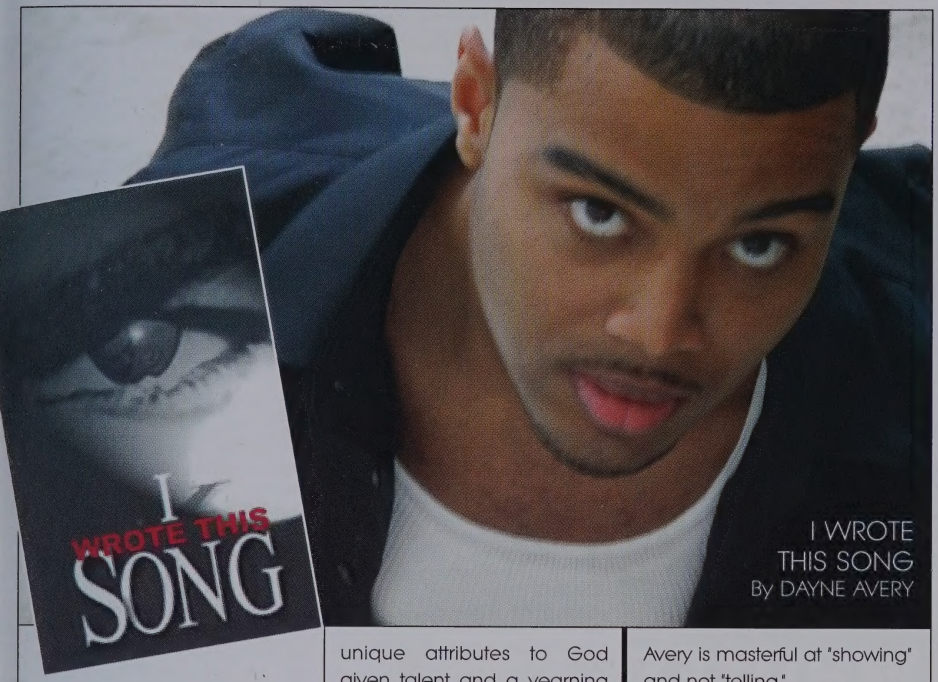
Tommie, a former member of a now defunct R&B group, has fallen for a college basketball player with a dazzling future in the pros. But at thirty-something, barely out of the closet, with little left to show for his once-hot career, Tommie can't help wondering what a young rising star is doing with a fallen star like him.

Navigating a fast-paced world populated by divas, drama queens, and DLs, the guys are about to find out if real love can triumph in the City of Angels, where perfect bodies, youth, and black and brown pride come together and collide with gay pride. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is a fun, sexy, and insightful tale of modern love in black and Latino Los Angeles.

Kensington Publishing Company
Publication Date: July 2005
ISBN: 0-7582-0979-7



Frederick Smith is a graduate of the University of Missouri Journalism School and Loyola University Chicago. A finalist for the 2004 PEN Center Emerging Voices Fellowship, and a member of the 2004 VONA (Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation at the University of San Francisco) novel seminar, Fred is an advocate for social justice and equality issues. He currently lives in the Los Angeles area. DOWN FOR WHATEVER is his first novel. Readers can contact him at www.fredericksmith.net.



Introducing the newest kid on the literary block- 23 year old Dayne Avery.

Writing is the art Avery was born to create. A love for language, paired with a passion to tell a story which needed telling birthed the vision for I Wrote This Song- Avery's debut novel.

The titles significance? When you think about it, life is like a song, a complicated melody full of high and low notes. "I want my story to resonate with beauty, creativity, and purpose," Avery smiles "and I will fight to make it so."

I Wrote This Song showcases a writing style seemingly penned by hands much older and filled with more wisdom than anyone so young should possess. Avery credits his unique attributes to God given talent and a yearning to let to world hear his voice. "Most know me as mild mannered and are taken back when they discover I had enough words inside to fill the pages of a great novel. I wanted to give a ray of hope, or at least take peoples minds off of how cruel this life can be. And if nothing else, help the man whose shoes I used to fill- struggling on a rocky path towards self acceptance, letting him know he is not alone."

Mr. Avery has definitely written a powerful and passionate novel that should be read by everyone. It is rare to find an author blessed with the gift of writing with a stylistic and nuanced technique so developed that the reader becomes a part of the story. There is a huge difference between telling a story and painting a picture and Mr. Avery is masterful at "showing" and not "telling."

I Wrote This Song is a MUST read. This novel deals with the gamut of human emotions and creates real characters with real issues that are treated with finesse and grace. Love is always a complicated and complex conundrum of emotions and Mr. Avery vividly shows the duality of love: its beauty as well as its uncanny ability to hurt. In the end, the heart will always love what it loves...

Mr. Avery makes me proud to be a writer. Don't miss out on I Wrote This Song.

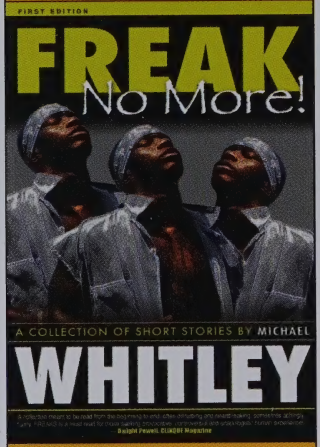
– Lee Hayes, author of Passion Marks
"www.passionmarks.com"

Paperback: 208 pages
BookSurge Publishing (February 8, 2005)
ISBN: 0976132303

"Don't be scared, it will hurt just a little"

Synopsis:

Ten Years in the making, Freak is the collected (thoughts) (words) (torment) of unconventional voices outside the societal radar desperately trying to normalize themselves. It's what a freak, someone rejected wants more, that is to be accepted, loved. In the short story "The Reverend is a good man," Michael Whitley explores the complexity of molestation and how a victim can



mistakenly love its (predator). In the short story "Mama's Medicine," a nine year old boy dreams of running away to Sesame Street, so that he wouldn't have to deal with his mother's death. The side splitting, of the wall, extremely funny Dangerous life of a male secretary and Pink Jelly Sandals, someone is trying to kill the underachiever and a gay boy remembers his first love, obsession, his middle school crush and the girl he once fought to worship. The last story, Who is Sean, an alcoholic and sex addict puts a bullet through his heart because he did the one thing he promised himself he'ld never do, fall in love. A collection, purposely murdering fairytales, so unapologetic, is often disturbing and heartbreaking, sometimes achingly funny, but a must read for those seeking provocative, controversial and unapologetic urban human experiences.

QUOTE FROM AUTHOR: In my heart, I will always be that eight year old boy abandoned by his mother. Under normal circumstances, that is if my father didn't get himself murdered and my mother never got addicted to crack, I probably would've grown up to be something noble and safe like a Doctor or Corporate Lawyer. Instead, because the wound of abandonment cut so deep into my soul, I knew I could never be "sitcom" normal, always a freak outside the radar, thus I became an artist. The sitcom "normal" had betrayed me. It made me a freak. It also made me creative because I needed to create a world where a freak like me could belong and laugh and cry about life. I needed to express the void in my soul.

About author: Michael Whitley was born in Texas, graduated from the University of Houston and studied under Edward Albee and the Hurston/Wright workshops with Mat Johnson. A produced playwright and published writer, he now resides in Washington D.C

CLIKQUE INTERVIEW

How long have I been a writer?
I wrote my first poem in first grade. Yes, in first grade I already knew how to read, write and count money. Actually, I knew how to count money before I got to kindergarten. When you're the son of a crackhead, you have to learn life quick.

Why did you want to become a writer?
I never wanted to become a writer per se. I guess you can say, there were two life changing incidents. In essence, I wanted to become a storyteller --that's how I knew it. When I was nine years old, my grandmother was the best family storyteller. She would get all of us kids in a room on a hot summer night, we make a circle around her and she would tell us stories of our parents

When did you write your first story?
I wrote my first story when I was fifteen years old. I wrote on the bathroom floor at two o'clock in the morning. It was like an exorcism, the best high of my life. I have yet to experience anything like it again. It was like god was flowing through me. I couldn't sleep because I had a voice whispering in my ear. I got some notebook paper and locked myself in the bathroom. I wasn't suppose to be up that late, knew if I got caught, I would get in trouble, but I needed to tell the story. I found a pen, and on the bathroom floor I wrote "Fatal Love." It was a story about a white boy falling in love with a black girl during Jim Crow. A year later, it won the San Antonio Literary award for best youth fiction.

When did you want to become a writer?
I never stopped writing. I wanted to become a film director. I went to school to become a film director. It didn't work out, but I never stopped writing. I never stopped wrestling with the voices in my head and life. It would turn out to be my saving grace. I woke up at twenty seven years old and realized I had nothing. I had no life. I was broke, no job, living back in Texas, and not sure what was to become of my life. I never stopped writing. I woke up to find that it was all that I had. I had so many stories, hundreds, but wasn't doing anything with them. Writing was my refuge.

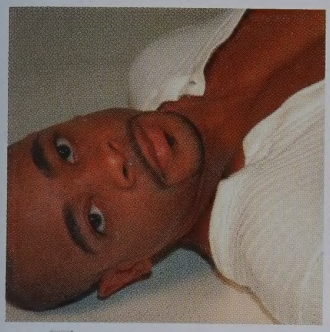
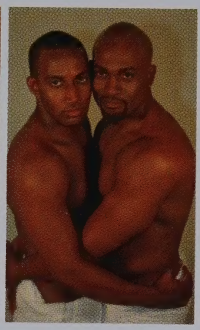
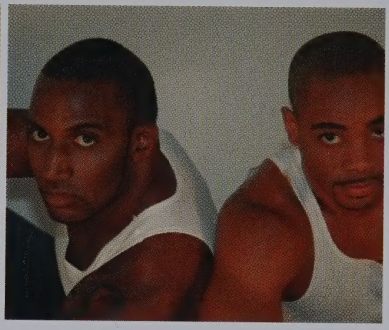
How would you describe Freak?
When you're the minority's minority, it can seem difficult to dream without compromise in a world that teaches to value everything but yourself, to tell every story but your own, so I had to ponder what does happiness look like for the invisible, down low, unseen. Freak, no more is bravery. I could have written a black gay fairytale with perfect pretty black successful characters with problems. I love E. Lynn Harris. I pay tribute to him, because he made it possible for me, but I don't know too many successful people or perfect. I know the drag queens, the check writers, the strippers, the hustlers, old men who chase young boys, so I could only tell my truth. As an authentic writer, you can only tell your truth. Freak, is the only truth I know.

Why should people buy your book?
The characters in Freak, no more, seek life. A life they can own, value, fight for. I feel when you're black and gay, you have to learn to tell your own stories because no one else will. You have to learn to fight for your own experiences because no one else. You have to learn to give yourself power, identity and value, because no one else will.

Is Freak, no more is mostly black and gay?
No, it's universal. I read "Memoir of a Geisha," and I'm not Asian or a prostitute.

Any last words?
I love that line in Willy Wonka Chocolate Factory about money being common, that it's made and printed everyday, but you only get one life chance, to be special, to be chosen -- you would be a dummy to buy into the idea of normal or safe. Life is about feeling alive. Freak is so dangerous, so alive, it should be illegal. I'm a fucking rock star.

BOOK DROPS TUESDAY 30TH AUGUST / For details visit www.MichaelWhitley.net

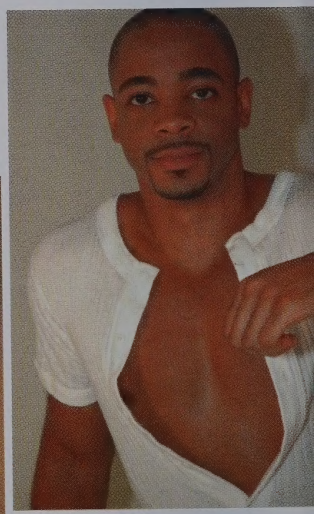
photography by malik m.l. williams

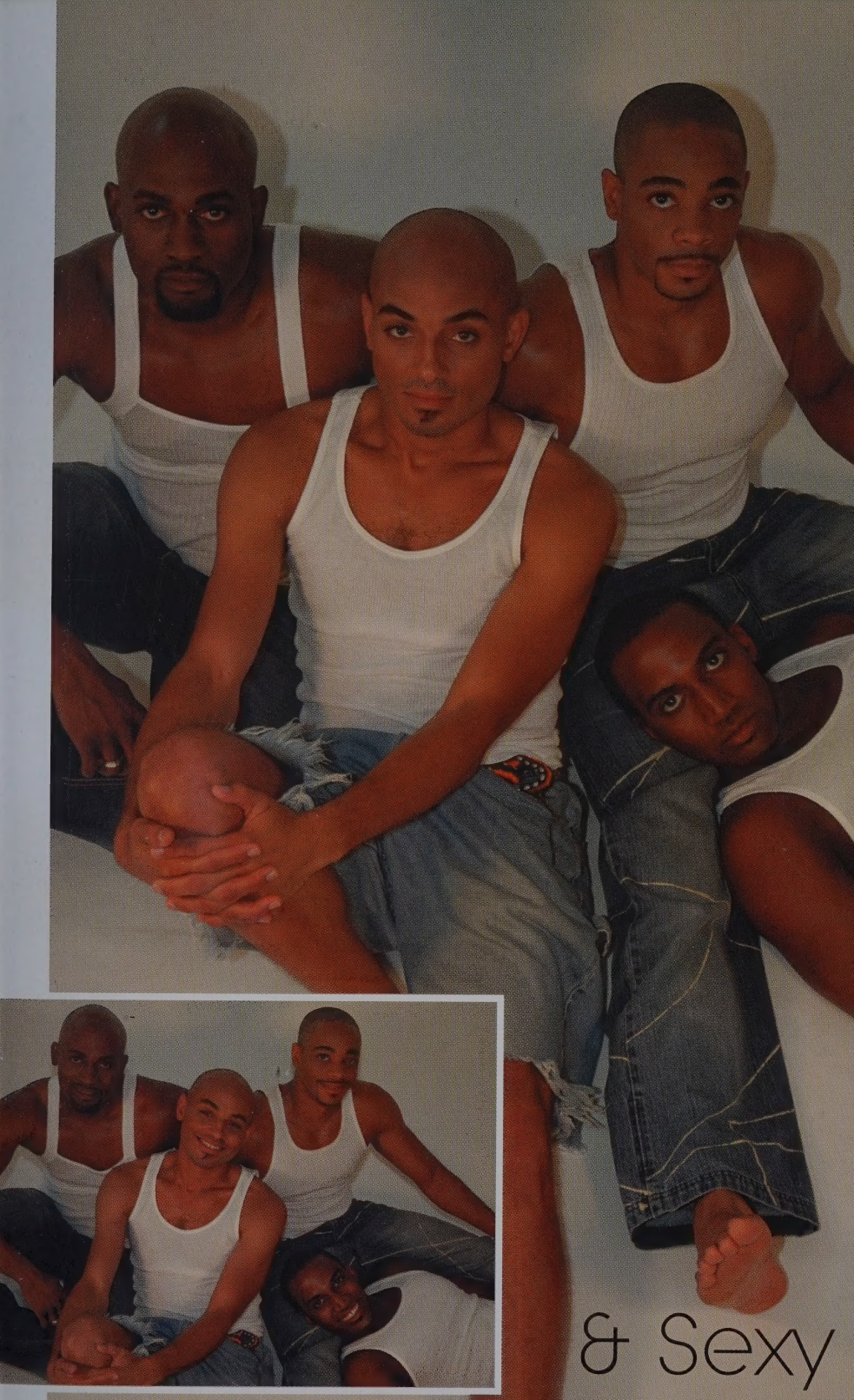
Visit www.BrothaLoveImages.com

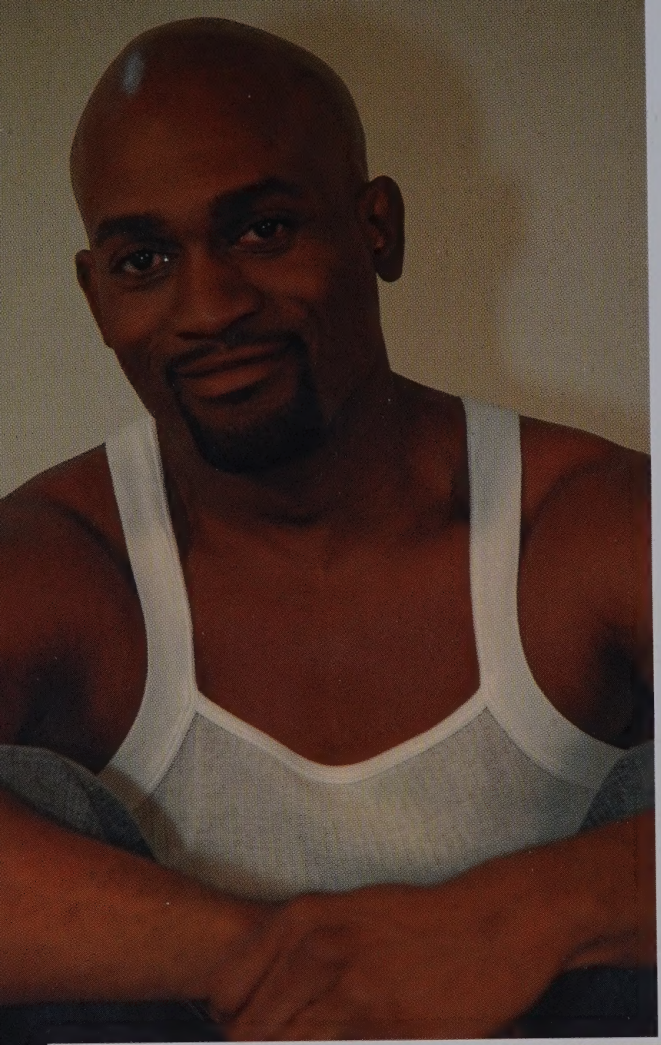
WHITE HOT!

Photographed exclusively for Clikque Magazine by malik m.l. williams of BrothaLovelmages.com

Fashion mavens for ages have marked Labor Day as the end of the summer season, the last day to wear white. But whether it calls for a last-days-of-summer tank top, an almost-fall sweater, or a whole lot less, Labor Day Weekend in Atlanta is always WHITE HOT!




& Sexy



Make-up:

Amethyst Light Designs

Assistant art direction

The ADODI Muse

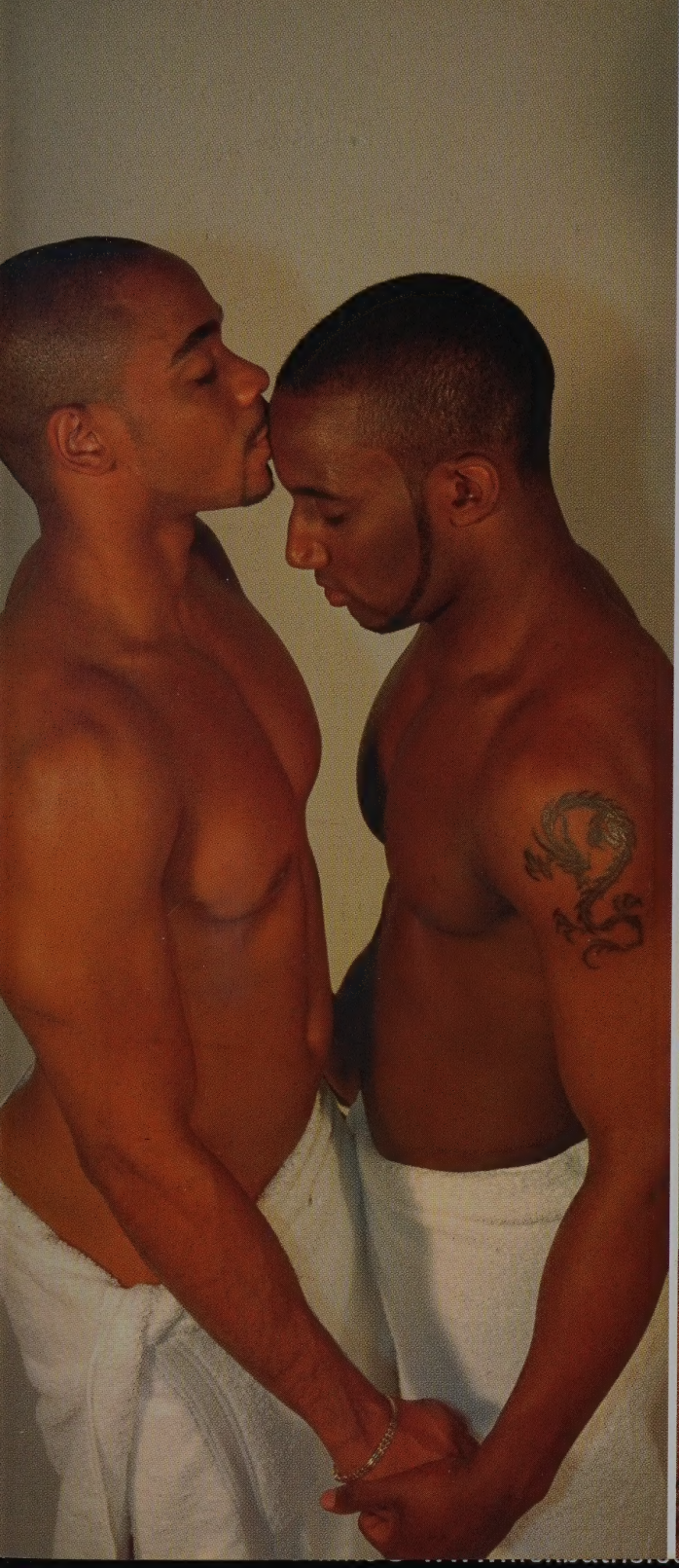
Models: (L-R Below)

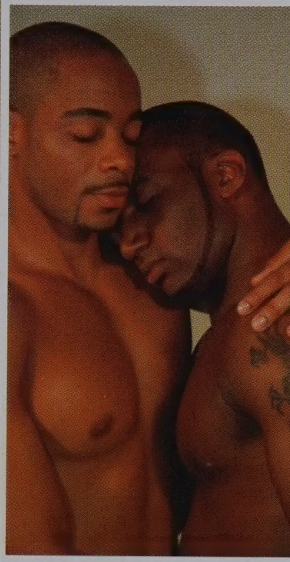
Findrix A. Bowers III

D. Ransom

Phoenix Boyd

David Lee





Black men are beautiful

Writer/Photographer – **Malik M.L. Williams**
Atlanta, Georgia

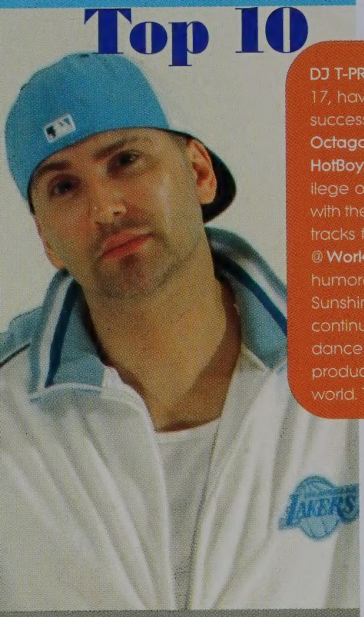
That is the simple premise that is at the heart of BrothaLove Images operating philosophy: "presenting positive images of black men." My hope is that the representations of men i create will reflect the diversity, strength, creativity and - of course - beauty that i see in black men everywhere. I am especially encouraged by some of the images of brothas loving brothas i have been able to create.

We don't see enough representations of ourselves, our love, our worthiness in the world around us. If i can change that, even a little bit, i believe i'm on the right path.

MUSIC REVIEWS

T-PRO / BILLBORAD

T-Pro's Top 10

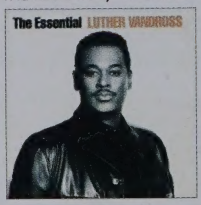


1. We Run This (tpromix) — MISSY ELLIOTT — ATLANTIC
2. Shake — YING YANG TWINS f/ PITBULL — TVT
3. Twisted — OLIVIA f/ Lloyd Banks — G-UNIT
4. Bounce That Thang — MR. EASY — RUDEGAL
5. LO QUE PASO PASO — DADDY YANKEE — POLYDOR
6. To The Floor — R. KELLY, WYSEN & YINDELL — JIVE
7. Holla Back Girl (dancehall rmx) — GWEN STEFANI — INTERSCOPE
8. In Ya Face — EBONY EYES — TRACKMASTE
9. We Belong 2gether (rmx) — MARIAH CAREY — DEFJAM
10. Don't Ya Wish Ya Girlfrind — BOW WOW f/Ciera — SONY

DJ T-PRO (just T to his friends) arrived NYC via Washington DC at the tender age of 17, having already played as resident to DC's largest club. He soon continued his success in NY playing clubs like the legendary **Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Milk, Octagon, Warehouse, CafeConLeche, Escuelita, Exit, Krash, Cheetah** and the **HotBoyz Pride Events** featuring **Mary J Blige, Lil Kim & Ashanti**. He also had the privilege of being a 5-year resident dj @ NY's most popular club SPLASH and partying with the likes of **Mariah, Britney & Janet**. This amazing dj has also produced/remixed tracks for **Janet** & her brother **Michael Jackson, Ellen Degeneres, Mad Tv, Masters @ Work, Marilyn Manson, Jellybean Benitez, Arthur Baker, Kristine W** and yes, even humorously, **Wonder Woman**. Now living in Miami, T is a resident dj at some of the Sunshine State's largest clubs **Coliseum, Discotheque, Karma & Nocturnal**. He also continues 2 dj / vj once a month @ **SPLASH** in **NYC**, reports 4 **Billboard** magazine's dance chart, is hip-hop music columnist 4 **Clikque** magazine and even finds time 2 produce some of the best DVD visual installations (aka "**Tlv**") 4 clients all over the world. T is truly bringing multimedia 2 the masses.

LUTHER VANDROSS,

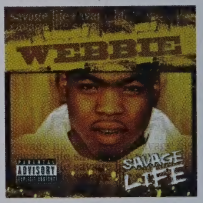
THE ESSENTIAL, - in stores Now



Where do I start? Luther was such a sweet man, and that voice is one of a kind. In a recent TV interview, Luther recalled having dinner with Whitney Houston and upon seeing a rather thin man walk by, Luther commented that is how he wants 2 look. Whitney's reply 2 Luther's weight battle..."but he can't sing". True words Luther, God does not give everybody everything and your gift of voice touched so many lives. For instance, a rather famous DJ friend of mine was very close 2 Luther, and through him a mutual friend (and hot boy) of ours was introduced. Luther and the young lad hit it off, he was flown 2 LA and surrounded by the sweetness that was our Luther. How many wedding vows taken because of Luther? How many babies were made because of Luther? How much R&B was influenced by his style? From commercial jingles 2 his first solo recording (the classic "Never 2 Much"), Luther served up jam after jam. This collection features the incredible "A House Is Not A Home", "Stop 2 Love", "If This World were mine" (with Cheryl Lynn), "I Who Have Nothing" (with Martha Wash) and so much more. Just buy it. Luther is essential in every collection. (11T) (11T).

WEBBIE,

TSAVAGE LIFE, in stores now



If u are a fan of dirty south Style HH, then this is the CD 4 U! Why he is asking another man "Give Me That Pussy" I do not quite know, but the first single of the same title was a huge hit during Sizzle 2005 and is still all over radio (without the pussy, of course). Additional tracks like "Full Of dat Shit", "Crank It Up" and "Gutta Bitch", "Bad Bitch" and "Pack Dat Shit" should let u know what this CD is about. I aint gonna do a social commentary on this CD...I will just say that if u want some real south car & club tracks (albeit mostly REALly Negative) this CD is 4 u. I give him a sliding scale of T, from 4-7T. 4 because I like some of the tracks and the beats r hot, but they are, on occasion, so blatantly promoting negativity that it is painful. The 7T because my friends that luv south hip-hop love this CD in ALL it's gory glory and don't analyze music they just enjoy it. Someone once said "Ignorance Is Bliss" and I

At the end of each review, T-Pro rates each album by giving T points of 1 thru 10. 10 being Tight/Awesome and 1 being Tired

agree. Sometimes I wish I could just listen 2 a track promoting Gun Violence and not think it made any difference 2 the children hearing it on the radio. Oops, I guess I did do my social commentary(8T)

MARIAH CAREY,

THE EMANCIPATION OF MIMI , in stores Now

The new single "Shake It Off" is released this month. It's light, but "Get Your Number", "We Belong 2gether Rmx" and "Stay The Night" r my personal faves. It is funny that I luv this CD because her last few CD's annoyed me...she was always running notes (ad-libbing) it was like there was no melody 2 any of her tracks. I think that's why I always like her classic "Breakdown" because she was forced 2 use her beautiful voice 2 sing that melody by Bone Thugz & Harmony. Now in 2005 JD asked her 2 do the same and it works. PS, if u can, find the south rmx of "It's Like That" (very hot). PPS, can somebody email me and tell me why in every performance Mariah has her hair blowing in the wind. She was standing next to 10 people on VH1's "Save The Music" and the only hair moving was hers...amazing...lol(9)

B5,

B5, in stores Now

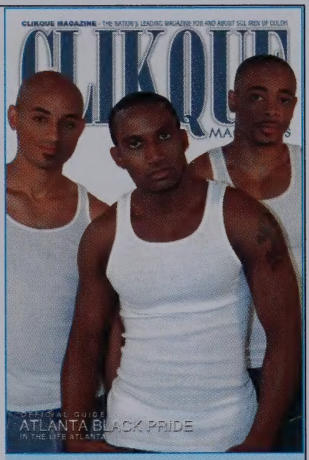
5 Brothers, hot looks and hot voices are making the girls (& boyz) go crazy. Produced by P Ditty, this CD has everything from high energy styled dance- hop 2 super-sweet ballads. The highlights are the down-tempo single "All I Do" and the as of yet unreleased "Dance 4 me'. I also liked "Teachers Pet", Back In Your Arms", Heartbreak" and "No More Games". Considering this is meant 2 be the introductory disc 4 these 5 and not necessarily the strongest work on the planet, it does shine. Why they released "U Got Me" I am not sure, it is NOT the strongest song on the CD...but 2 b fair, Puffy does have a lot going on with his fashion label, so it should be expected the record label might suffer a bit. I was surprised not 2 c them in the top 10 of BET every 5 minutes like B2Gay (b2k) used 2 b. Who is executive producer? Hmmm look up "Payola" in the dictionary! Although I am giving the boyz a 6 for they're first time out, I do anticipate many more CD's from this group. Overall, I enjoyed the disc but I found myself waiting 4 another major catchy tune 2 show up, and it never does. (6T)

FATTY KOO,

HOUSE OF FATTY KOO, in stores now

If it weren't 4 Joshua (pictured) I would not have ever heard of this band. The name just seemed so BET circa 1992 that I was not gonna give 'em a chance. Then I saw this little cutie in the preview on TV and had 2 watch. It was kind of like watching "Making The Band" except everybody actually has talent. Enough talent that Sony Records is giving them the green light 2 showcase their skills and many are. Highlights include "Shake", "Bounce", "Cruise Control" and "Lust". Ok, now back 2 Josh, who at only 15 years of age says his influences are James Brown, Fred Astaire and Michael Jackson. Drawing energy from his current faves of Justin Timberlake and Kanye West, Joshua says he wants 2 do more than just sell records he wants "2 change lives". The BET show, new CD and Tour with band mates Gabrielle, Mayra, Valure, Eddie B and Ron (all under 21) is a great place 2 start. . (7T)

Material to be reviewed in this magazine must be send to: Music Review Department, Clikque Magazine
1001 N Federal Hwy., Suite 365, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009



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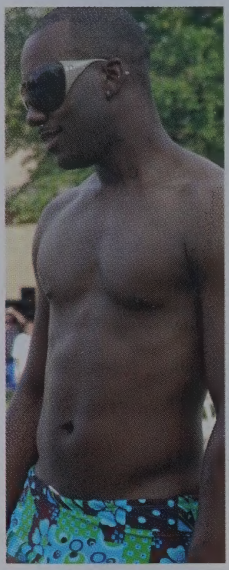
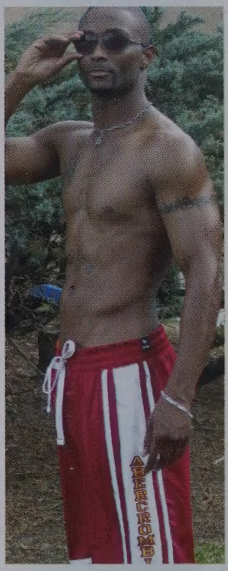
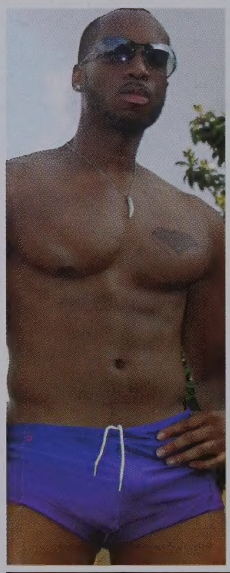
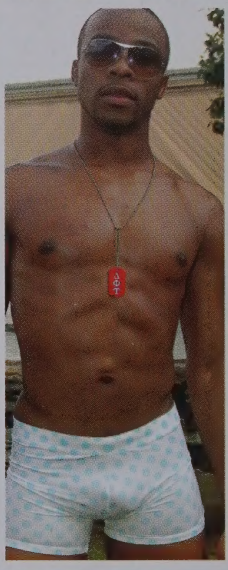
Congrats to Derrick Miles, Sean Dawson, and the team @ Houston Splash for putting on a successful event this past May



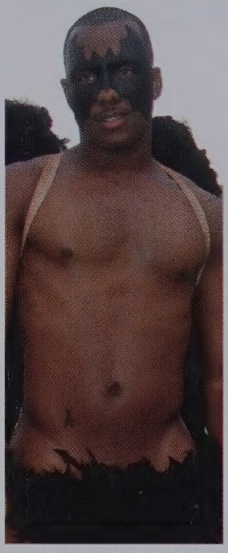


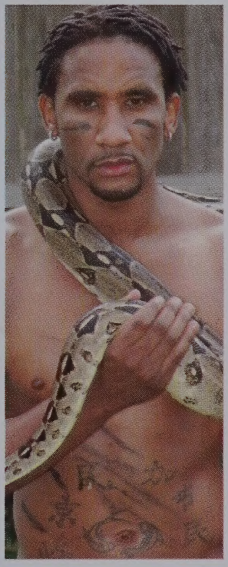


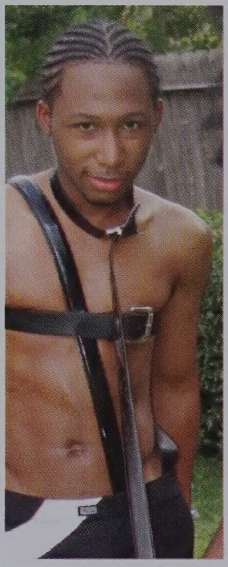


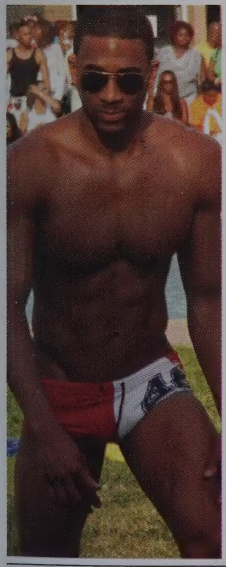
above: Clikque Magazine November 2004 Cover Model, sexy ass Mac stricks a pose for the camera @ Houston Splash pool party & fashion show.

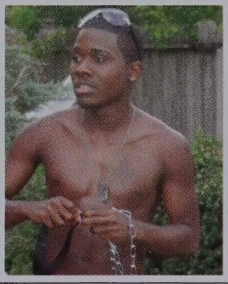
left:
The sexy men of Flavamen Magazine was in the house.











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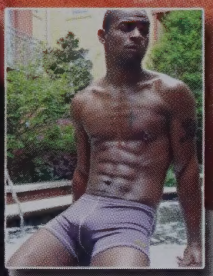
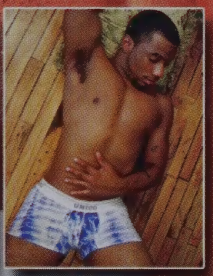
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"On the Low,"

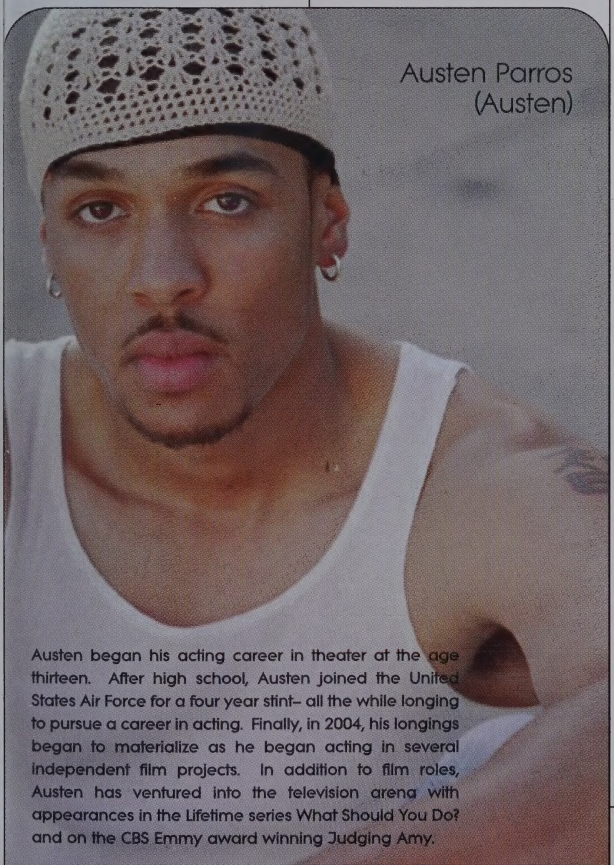
a Short Film by Luther M. Mace, Makes Its Film Festival Premiere

"On the Low" contributes to the new millennium's black gay renaissance. It is a film about two African-American high school boys involved in a clandestine aka "down low" or "DL" relationship.

"On The Low," a short film, explores the emotional consequences of a hush-hush intimate relationship between two African-American high school boys.

"On The Low" tells the story of a young man, Ty Evans, coming to terms with his sexuality and the inner conflict he experiences. The true extent of Ty's relationship with his classmate, Kevin Banks, begins to trouble him when the boys get into a schoolyard shoving match. As the tension between them escalates, Ty realizes what began as innocent curiosity and experimentation has blossomed into a deeper infatuation. He recognizes that the only way to come to terms with his feelings is to admit to Kevin that he's in love with him.

Kevin & Ty's first time



Austen Parros (Austen)

Austen began his acting career in theater at the age thirteen. After high school, Austen joined the United States Air Force for a four year stint– all the while longing to pursue a career in acting. Finally, in 2004, his longings began to materialize as he began acting in several independent film projects. In addition to film roles, Austen has ventured into the television arena with appearances in the Lifetime series What Should You Do? and on the CBS Emmy award winning Judging Amy.

"On The Low" depicts the cultural phenomenon–"the down low" or "DL"– prevalent in urban communities in which African-American males are intimately involved with both men and women. However, as the title alludes, the homosexual relationship remains a secret. "There's something universal about integrity and self-respect," explains the film's writer-director Luther M. Mace. "Anybody– gay, straight, black, white; male, female– who believes that it's okay to be in a relationship with somebody who refuses to publicly acknowledge them is in for a rude awakening."

This film stars Deondray Gossett ("Sister Act 2"), Delpano Wills ("Dark Town"),

OTL CONTINUES ON PAGE 66

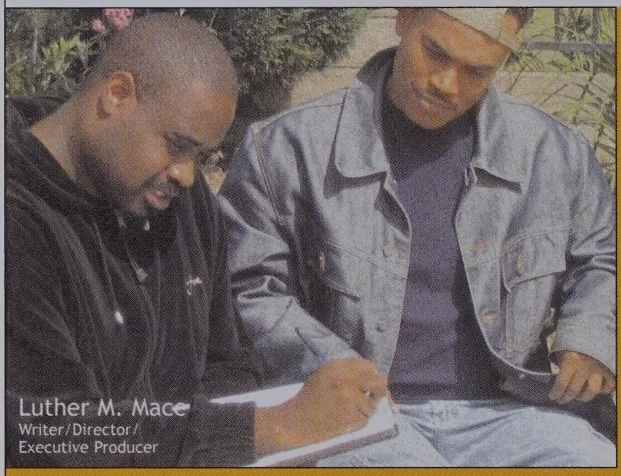
OTL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65

and Tommy Mikal Ford ("Martin," "Harlem Nights"). The short also features newcomers Antoine D'Angelo Lattier, Gene Samuel and Austen Parros.

Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, a hard-knocks area of New York City, Luther Mace knows first hand what it's like to grow up in a machismo environment in which homosexuality is not widely accepted. "I've spent so many years fighting the inevitable because I knew I'd be ostracized by everybody around me," contends Mace. "In fact, this (film) is ripped right out of my personal journal. I know what's like to keep a relationship a secret because other people finding out could have dire emotional consequences."

Deondray Gossett (Ty Evans)

Actor/Writer/Producer/Director: Deondray Gossett has had major experience in front of the camera as well as behind. A classically trained and award-winning actor, Deondray Gossett began his career as a screen, television and theatre actor, having worked with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, Bill Duke, Lauryn Hill, Danny Devito, Steve Gomer (director), and Nathan Lane and guest-starred on series such as Roswell, The Parenthood, and the The Hughleys. He also acted in and lent his voice to the film and soundtrack of the hit musical Sister Act 2. After having enjoyed considerable success in the entertainment industry on screen for over 10 years, he decided to try his hand off screen. Disillusioned with the Hollywood studio machine and limited opportunities for people of color, Deondray was inspired to take matters into his own hands; he partnered with actor/writer/director Quincy LeNear to form 2 Cents Productions. As a writer, Deondray penned the story for the 2 Cents Productions' film Had U and co-directed it with Quincy LeNear. The film went on to win Best Experimental Short Film in Showtime Network's Digital Film Festival. In 2004, Gossett and LeNear completed Of Death and Dying, an emotionally charged short film that deals with coming to terms with one's own mortality.



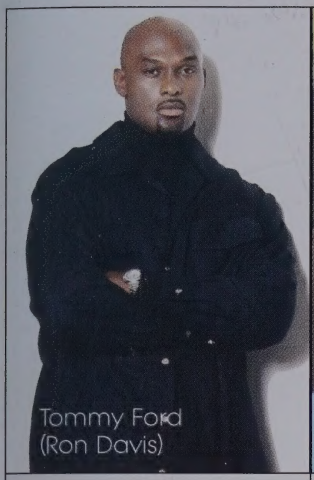
Luther M. Mace
Writer/Director/
Executive Producer

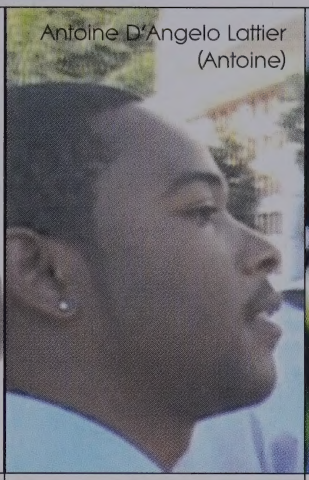
Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, New York, Luther has had a passion for the entertainment biz since he was a young child. Often studying the end credits of his favorite television shows and wondering what each job title entailed. Earning his Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications from Emerson College in 1992, Luther traveled to Los Angeles to pursue his career goals.

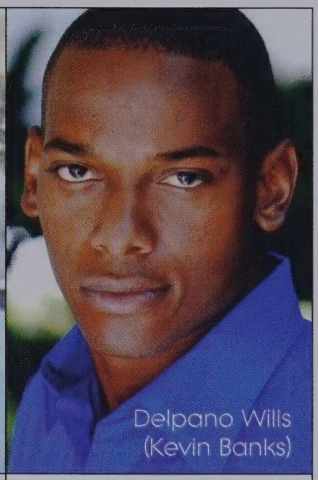
In 1993, Luther landed his first literary agent with an ambitious TV spec script for the now defunct Roseanne television series. In 1996, he was accepted into the prominent David Milch Writing Seminar— an enviable opportunity to further develop his craft as a writer under the tutelage of legendary scribe David Milch. In 1997, Luther went to work for HBO in an administrative capacity in which he absorbed a plethora of knowledge from some of the best and brightest industry minds working in the field of entertainment. Later that year, Luther formed TorchLight Media, a film and television production company committed to developing and producing trailblazing projects for all media.

2003 proved to be a banner year for the budding filmmaker. He was accepted into Independent Filmmakers Project- Los Angeles' celebrated Project: Involve program and his script Love & Marriage received recognition by Sundance by advancing to the quarterfinals of the Screenwriters Lab.

In the latter half of 2003, while attending a seminar honoring the works of David Mamet, Luther was struck by the advice given by the guest of honor in which Mr. Mamet encouraged the attendees to take a more proactive role in their careers by figuring out a way to produce their own work. Shortly afterwards, Luther developed On The Low, his directorial debut, based his personal experience of falling in love for the first time. Contact: Info@torchlightmedia.com


Tommy Ford
(Ron Davis)


Antoine D'Angelo Lattier
(Antoine)


Delpano Wills
(Kevin Banks)

Tommy Ford: His recurring role as the fun-loving father on **UPN's** sitcom **The Parkers** is just another side of the versatile actor who keeps his audience guessing.

Whether playing Tommy on FOX television's comedy hit **Martin** or displaying a totally versatile style on FOX television's controversial drama **New York Undercover** as the cool collective 'Lieutenant **Malcolm Barker**', Tommy Ford is constantly making changes in his career and finding that he will always be successful in any endeavor he chooses to take on.

Although acting is his first love, Ford has successfully directed and produced several plays and is currently attached to three film projects for which he has been chosen to direct.

He has also been involved in numerous theater productions for which he has received great critical acclaim for his directing and acting efforts. Among those productions are Jonin', South of Where We Live, (Drama Logue Award, Image Award nomination), Monsoon Christmas (Drama Logue & Image Award), Living Room (Image Award nomination) and Distant Fires (Drama Logue & Image Award nomination).

As a writer, Ford has followed a long time dream and launched a series of children's books. The first two releases entitled Be Still And Know an Stop The Violence have won the hearts of many adults and childre alike. These imminent classics are designed to promote healthy, spiritual, an non-violent living to guide young people in their effort to becom better people by applying positive principles to daily living.

Tommy has just completed twelve new children's storybooks! These books are filled with beautiful illustrations, positive words of encouragement, and are designed to delight children all over the world. Although Tommy's books are written for children, they are ideal for parents to use as teaching tools. Each book is carefully designed to address a plethora of subject matters, questions, concerns, and curiosities of children. His newly release books are: Hey, Do You Have A Positive Attitude? & I Am Responsible For Me!

Antoine D'Angelo Lattier (Antoine)
Lauded as a child acting prodigy, Antoine made his first attempts into the performance milieu at the age of twelve while taking center stage in several church theatrical productions. Antoine received formal training while attending Cal State Northridge and Riverside Community College. He continues to develop his passion for his craft by studying the distinguished works of fellow thespians Denzel Washington, Tom Cruise, Tom Hanks and Jamie Foxx among others. At twenty one, he began to pursue his dreams professionally by landing a role at his first industry audition, ON THE LOW. Antoine stays grounded by keeping his life motto simple: "Put God first and keep your family close."

Gene Samuel (Trevor)
A student of the prestigious TVI Actors Studio, Gene made his feature film debut in the 2002 horror flick, Dark Town. The next year, he joined the small, but elite company of actors to portray slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King in a documentary commemorating forty years of Dr. King's famous I HAVE A DREAM speech. A current resident of Las Vegas, Gene continues to flex his dexterous acting muscles by performing in local theater while frequenting Los Angeles for roles in all media.

Delpano Wills (Kevin Banks)
Born in the US, Delpano Wills spent many of his formative years in West Africa learning the culture and customs of the African natives. Returning to the states for his adolescence, Del continued to exploit his intellectual curiosity by attending medical school upon which time he got bitten by the acting bug. In 2002, he completed production in his first feature film, Dark Town.

PREMIERES

On The Low is currently premiering at various location throughout the country. For location dates and times, visit the official website: http://www.onthelowmovie.com

LOOKING FOR LUTHER

Luther Vandross was a Same Gender Loving man.

The evidence? It's not that he worshiped divas like Aretha, Diana, Patti, and Dionne. Or that he was never linked romantically to a woman. Or that he refused to confirm or deny that he was one of the Children.

I've been listening to it on record, cassette tape, CD, and now my iPod for the last quarter century.

I got my first clue the very first time I heard his voice. The year: 1980. In the very first line of Change's "The Glow of Love" he sangs:

Flowers bloom, mornin' dew
and the beauty seems to say
It's a pleasure when you treasure
all that's new and true and gay

"Does he mean gay . . . or gay?" I thought to myself. He answered this question the following year with his debut, Never Too Much. I noticed that "Sugar and Spice (I Found Me A Girl)" and "She's A Super Lady" were sandwiched between non-gender specific songs, such as the title tune, the landmark remake "A House Is Not A Home," and the rather scandalous "I've Been Working," which is basically the confession of a ho':

I don't know why the world loves
a forever love affair
(I'm just a freak)
Who loves a one night thing oh yeah
(A one night all night)
And after a long day of work
all I wanna do is play around
So I'm going out
For a little bit of love
And a whole lotta getting down

I've been working
I've been all-day working
And I need somebody
Said I need some
I need some love tonight

Given that the gluttonous, hedonistic seventies were over and something called GRID was decimating gay men, this was a rather bold track for him to cut. And he doesn't say who that somebody he plans to bang is.

This pattern would be repeated in the future. For every "She Won't Talk To Me," "Lady, Lady," and "She Don't Mind," there was "Any Love," "Isn't There Someone," and "So Amazing." In fact, check his repertoire and you'll see that the object of his affection usually isn't identified as female. And sometimes the hint he dropped wasn't so subtle. He tackled "Ki=. lling Me SoftlyWith His Song" as is, knowing full well that those whispers about being gay would grow louder. With "Your Secret Love," those whispers became shouts, since the song also works as a on-the-low/down-low anthem. On "Religion," he acknowledged the hell we go through when our families can't accept us.

Then there's "Hit it Again," a title that speaks for itself. How many straight people do you know use that phrase? After hearing it, a friend of mine joked: "Luther must be an Enrique Cruz fan!" (Cruz runs a Bla-tino gay porn company.) And, is it just a coincidence that the guest rap is performed by Queen "I am not a lesbian" Latifah?

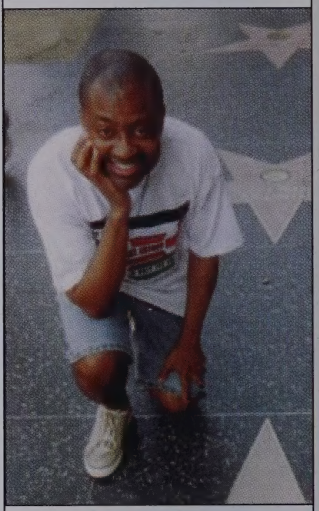
He also passed on to others selections he probably wished he could've recorded himself. For Dionne, it was "Got A Date" (Got a date, can't be late, ooh my my, with my guy, I can't wait); for Aretha, "Every Girl (Wants My Guy)" (They ain't never gonna get him..why can't they see, that the boy loves me?).

Luther has been addressing us, that other audience the music industry ignores, for decades. Thanks to Luther, I didn't have to substitute a "he" or "him" in my favorite tunes; I could claim them as my own. This is why his repertoire became the soundtrack for my life, as well as the couple I created in the B-Boy Blues series, Mitchell (aka Little Bit) and Raheim (aka Pooquie).

His efforts to musically state what he couldn't verbally may have been a bit too undercover for those debating how to remember him. Some believe it didn't and doesn't matter if Luther was gay (and, not surprisingly, they are usually heterosexual). Most disturbing are the comments from some African American SGL men who argue that, since Luther remained silent about his love life, we shouldn't claim him. But while Luther may not have been out in the classic sense, he didn't lead a "heterosexual lifestyle": He never declared that he was straight and only played Romeo to an invisible Juliet in the studio and on stage because of the strict heterosexist codes of the industry.

And while he could've officially come out since he'd already achieved legendary status, everyone doesn't want to be, can be, or has to be a spokesperson or activist. Instead of dismissing him for what he didn't represent, we should honor him for what he did. In addition to becoming the premiere soul balladeer of our time, ushering in the "Quiet Storm" format on Black radio, and keeping romance alive in pop music (and, in the process, schooling straight folks on the ways of love), he gave us music that we could sing to and for each other ("Here & Now" can be spun at both hetero and SGL weddings). He could only give what he could -- and what he did give, I am so thankful for.

He never said it. But, sometimes, he did sing it.



James Earl Hardy is the author of A House is Not A Home, the sixth and final title in the bestselling B-Boy Blues series. He can be reached at jeh@jamesearlhardy.com.

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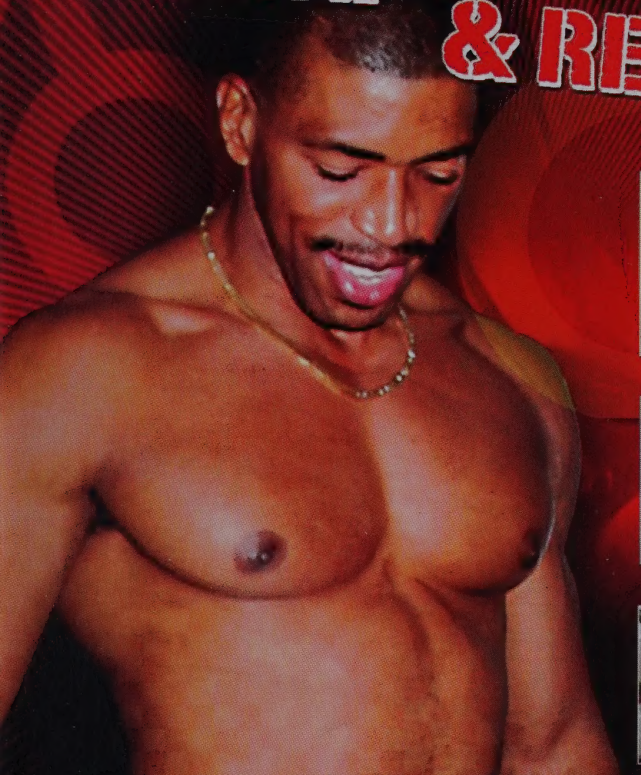

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The Weekly Line Up >>>

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$300 Cash prize given away each & every Monday night. Showcase your talent: Sing, Dance, Rap, Spoken Word, Poetry. A different comedian every Monday. Hosted by Sylvester "Sly" Carter from BET Comic View
Show time @1AM

TUESDAYS
New-Comer Talent Show
Hosted by Deidra, plus Dee Franklin Thomas representing the *Girls* & Yours truly "Lady T"

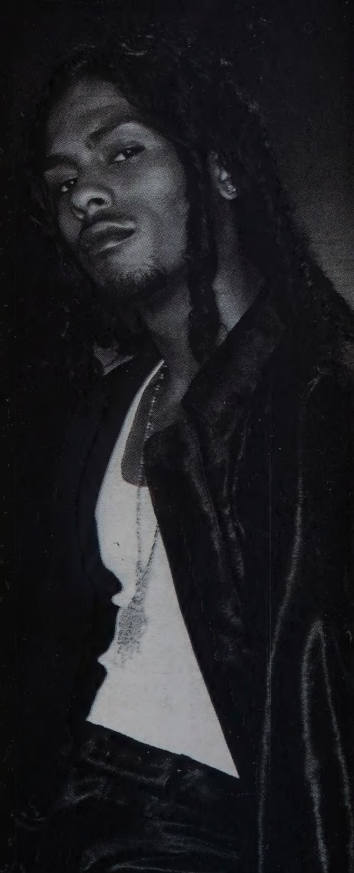
WEDNESDAYS
Mini-Ball
Hosted by Andre Givenchy

THURSDAYS
Thirsty Thursdays
Sexy Male Dancers, Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) & Dj Goose (House).
FREE 'til 11:30pm then $5 All Night.
Doors open @10pm
$1 draft beer & FREE. Well drinks every Thursday. Restaurant open.

FRIDAYS
Blackout Friday
(FREE 'til 11:30pm)
Hot male dancers every Friday night.
Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) & Dj Goose (House)
Doors open @10pm.
Restaurant open.

SATURDAYS
Milkshake Saturdays
FREE 'til 11:30pm
"My Milkshke brings all the boys to the Bar"
Music by Dj JFK (Hip-Hop) & Dj Goose (House).
Doors open @10pm.
Restaurant open.

SUNDAYS
Late Night After Party
FREE admission 'til 2am,
Doors open @9pm.
Dj JFK (Hip-Hop, R&B, House).
Drink specials & Sexy male dancers every Sunday.



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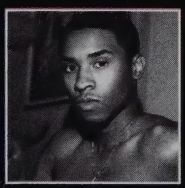
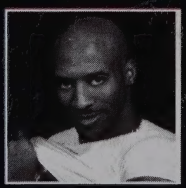

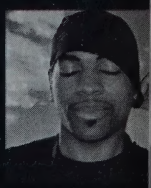

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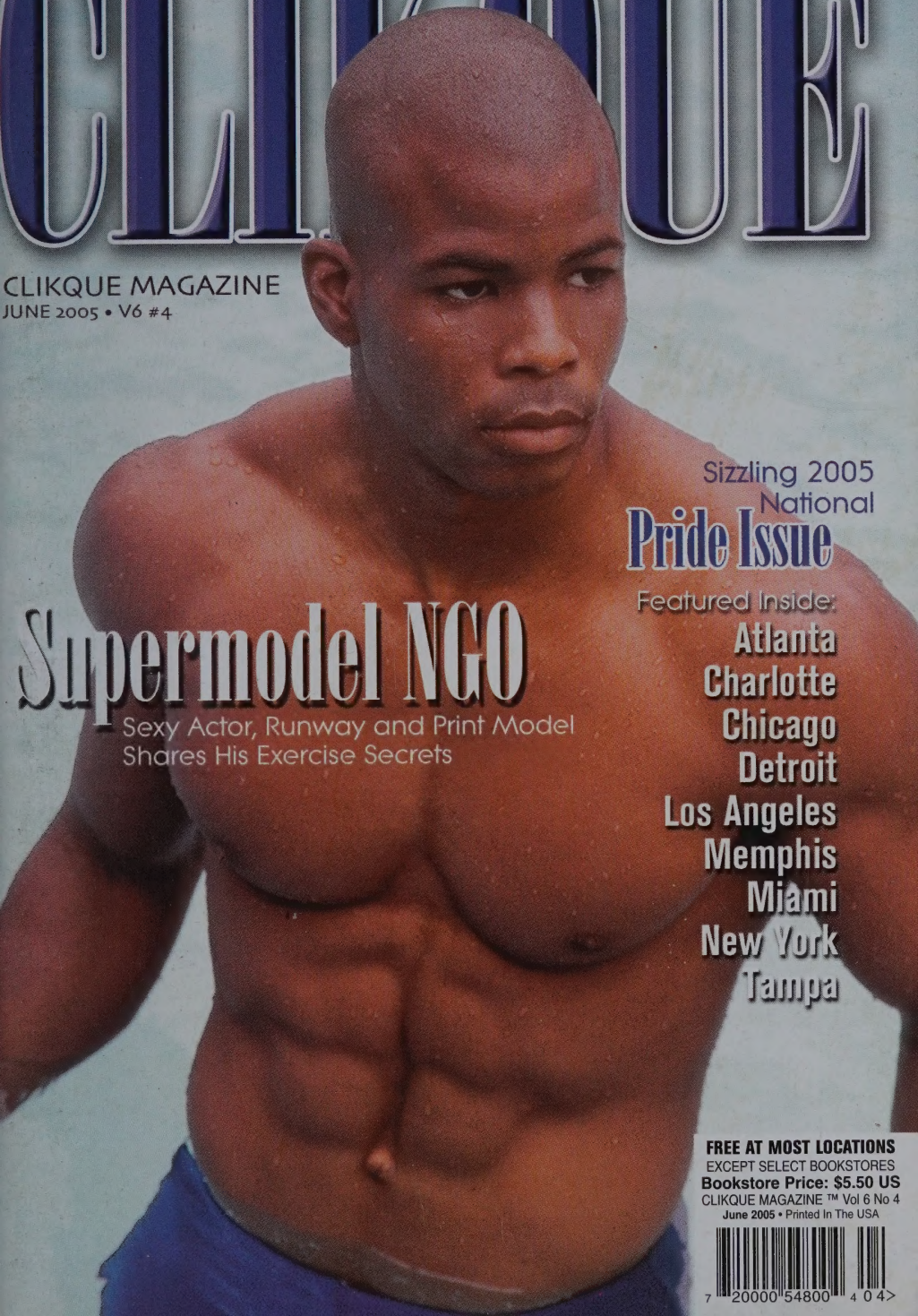

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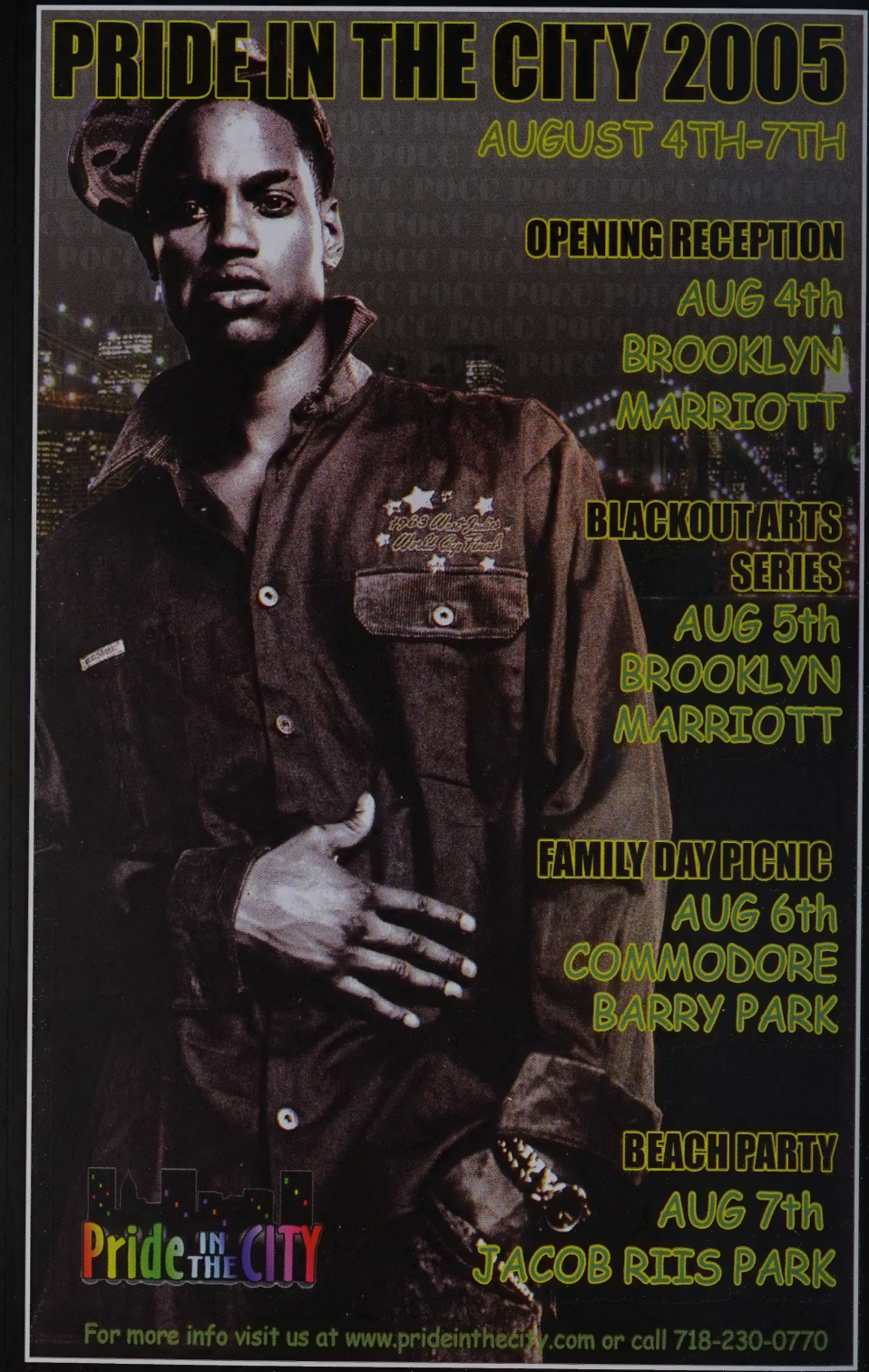
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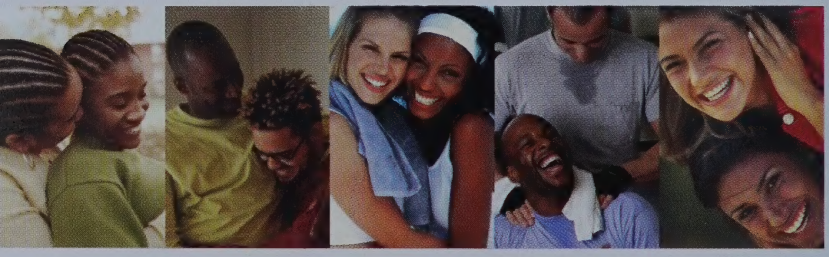

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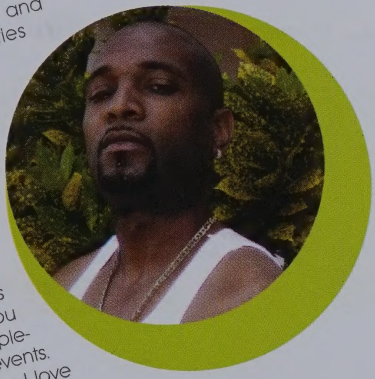
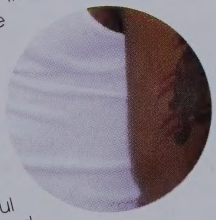
YEAR 2K5

We are really excited about this issue of Clikque and hope that you'll enjoy reading it as much as we did putting it all together for you. We do our best and try our hardest to keep you informed about the various events and activities across the nation. Being the only rag (Black Gay Magazine) left on the block, we consider this task a welcome responsibility.

In this issue, you'll be introduced to a national body, The International Federation Of Black Prides; an organization that we hope will make an impeccable difference in the enhancement of Black Gay Pride events nationwide. A unified organization working to enhance the lives and social consciousness of our communities could not have come at a better time.



Over the past few years, "pride" events around the nations are being drastically transformed into mega meeting grounds for parties and sex, with little to no focus on the educational, social, and political aspects of what prides were initially intended to represent. For those cities that recognized their events and gatherings as a pride event, I humbly stress that you go back to the days of old and implement all of the elements of pride events. There is nothing wrong with parties, I love a good party, however covering all bases makes your event well rounded. This in itself should appease all that wish to partake in the festivities.



I encourage you to support not only the major events in the larger cities, but also the smaller pride events right in your backyard. Pride organizers put a lot of energy and hard work into putting on successful events and your participation and support can go a long way in making the events bigger and better.

Enjoy the national pride and circuit events of 2005.

Dwight Powell

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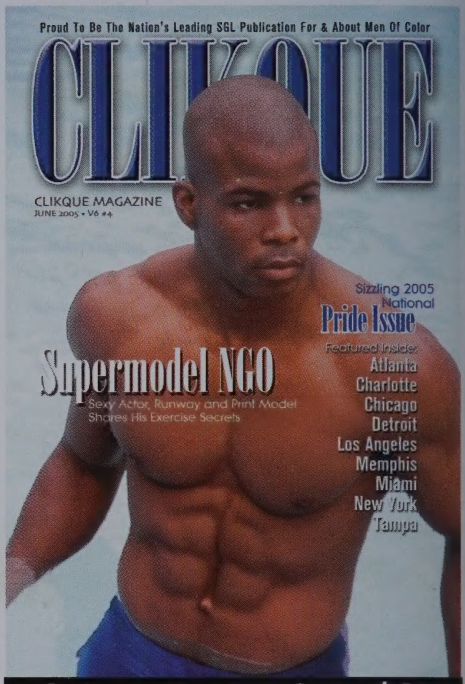

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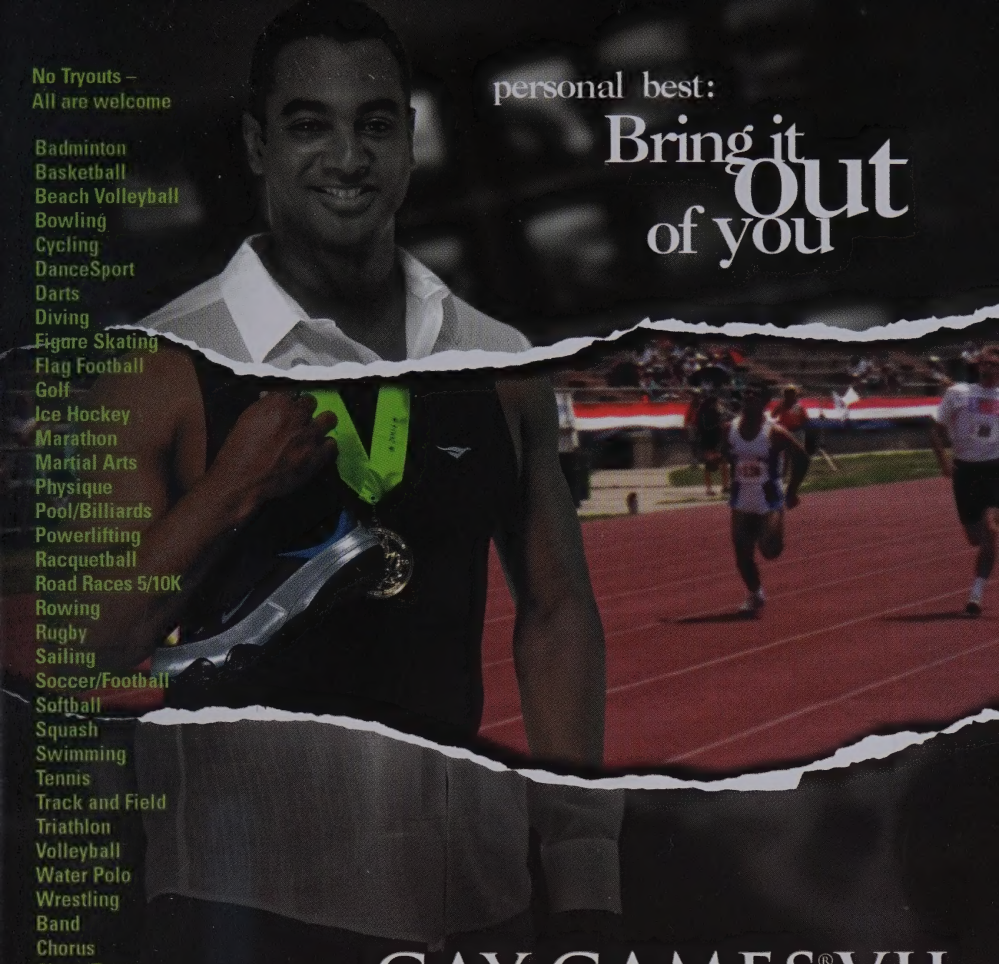

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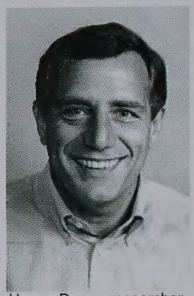
STUDY: Gay men's brains react differently to scent



Hamer Dean - researcher

A compound taken from male sweat stimulates the brains of gay men and straight women but not heterosexual men, raising the possibility that homosexual brains are different, researchers in Sweden reported.

It also strengthens the evidence that humans respond to pheromones -- compounds known to affect animal behavior, especially mating behavior, but whose role in human activity has been questioned.

The pheromone in question is a derivative of testosterone called 4,16-androstadien-3-one, or AND.

"AND is detected primarily in male sweat," the researchers write in this week's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In a previous study, Ivanka Savic of Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm and colleagues found that the hypothalamus region of the brain became activated when women smelled AND and when men smelled a corresponding compound in female urine called EST.

This time they compared the reactions of 12 women, 12 heterosexual men and 12 homosexual men.

They let them smell EST, AND, and ordinary odors such as lavender, and used positron emission tomography to watch their brain responses.

"In contrast to heterosexual men, and in congruence with heterosexual women, homosexual men displayed hypothalamic activation in response to AND," Savic's team wrote.

And a region of the brain called the anterior hypothalamus responded most strongly -- an area that in animals "is highly involved in sexual behavior".

But other smells were processed the same in all three groups.

"These findings show that our brain reacts differently to the two putative pheromones compared with common odors, and suggest a link between sexual orientation and hypothalamic neuronal processes," Savic's team wrote.

In most animals, pheromone signals go to the hypothalamus region of the brain via a pit-like structure in or near the nose called the vomeronasal organ.

People have a vomeronasal pit but there are no nerves connecting it to the brain, leading biologists to question whether humans respond to pheromones.

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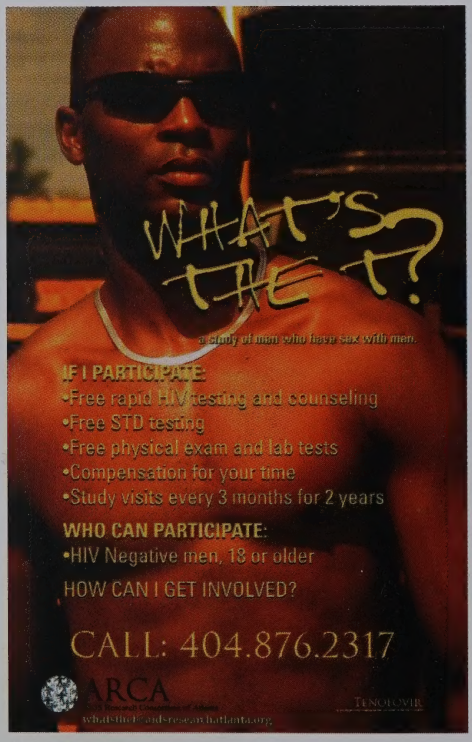
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Commentary Gay Marrage

by Bishop Carlton Pearson

Homosexuality is not going away. To those who see it as a moral issue, I remind you that you cannot legislate morality, neither can you, in actuality, educate it. The best you can do is to demonstrate it. When it comes to marriage in America (even among heterosexuals), we haven't done a very good job at demonstrating moral fidelity or covenant–not even Christians, who reportedly have a higher divorce rate than atheists.

The knee-jerk reaction of many religious people to the possibility of same-sex marriages is indicative of the innate paranoia resident in our theology. Is God freaking out over homosexuals or the divorce rate in America? If so, can He not do something about it without state legislation or a constitutional amendment?

The more attention you bring to it, the more tension you create. Thousands of same-sex partners live in our neighborhoods, and have done so for years and we would have never known if attention, for whatever reason, had not been drawn to it. Scripture says, it is better to marry than to burn with lust. I have always assumed that verse to be a reference to males and females in heterosexual covenant and I still do, but in principle, it can as easily apply to same-sex lust or love.

If we kick the homosexual community to the curb ignoring and/or insisting they ignore their sexuality, we will in effect be contributing to the proliferation of some of the most destructive habits and practices imaginable in our culture. I, too, am more comfortable with marriage remaining a covenant between a man and a woman as mine is but, to "get real" as Dr. Phil says, I'd rather see same-gender-loving people enter some semblance of monogamous commitment rather than living a promiscuous and non-committed life in which some, though not all, engage. As absurd as it may sound, marriage for same-gender-loving people sounds much more appealing to me than running around in bars and gay clubs contacting and spreading STDs and AIDS, and producing broken hearts and homes.

Traditional marriage is in no way threatened by the growing homosexual community or culture any more than gay people eating in the same restaurant with straight people affects the service or the taste of the meal. When gays appear on stage and film, as they have for decades, does their doing so change actors who become presidents like Ronald Reagan... or Governors like Arnold Schwartzenegger? Same-gender-loving people making a civil or marital commitment is no more of a threat to the larger society than interracial marriage or live in lovers enjoying the benefits of common-law marriage are or have been.

Laws allowing same-sex marriage and/or civil unions will be made, and life will go on as it has since women's suffrage, prohibition, school integration, African American voting rights, and legalized abortion-on-demand–something I categorically oppose. However, we need to put certain things in the hand of the Creator and simply trust. Perfect love cast out fear because fear has torment. God is not the author of confusion but of peace!

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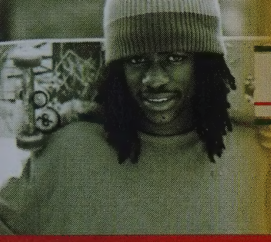

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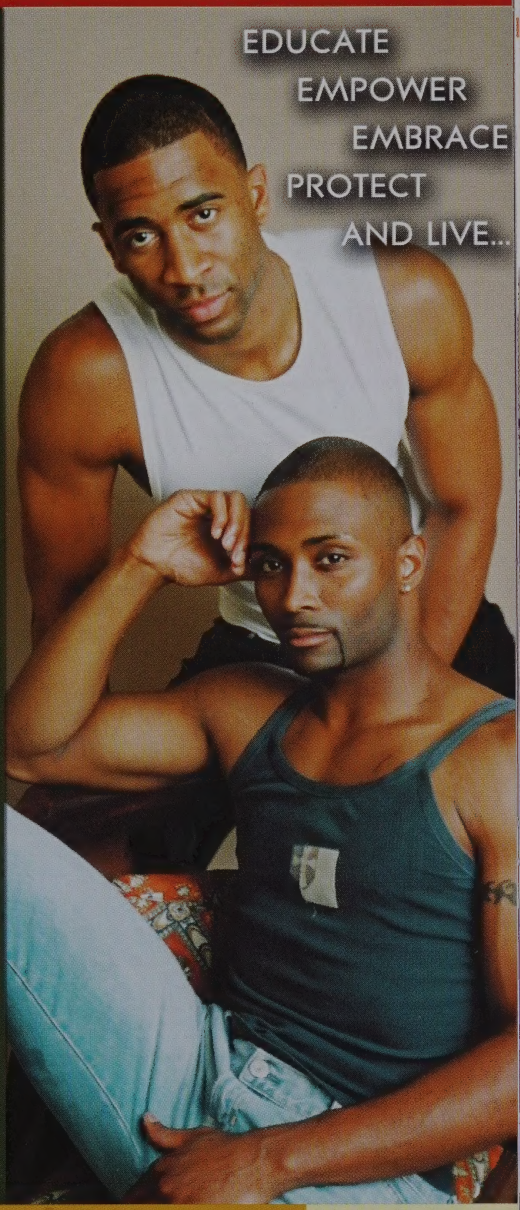

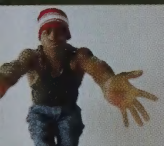

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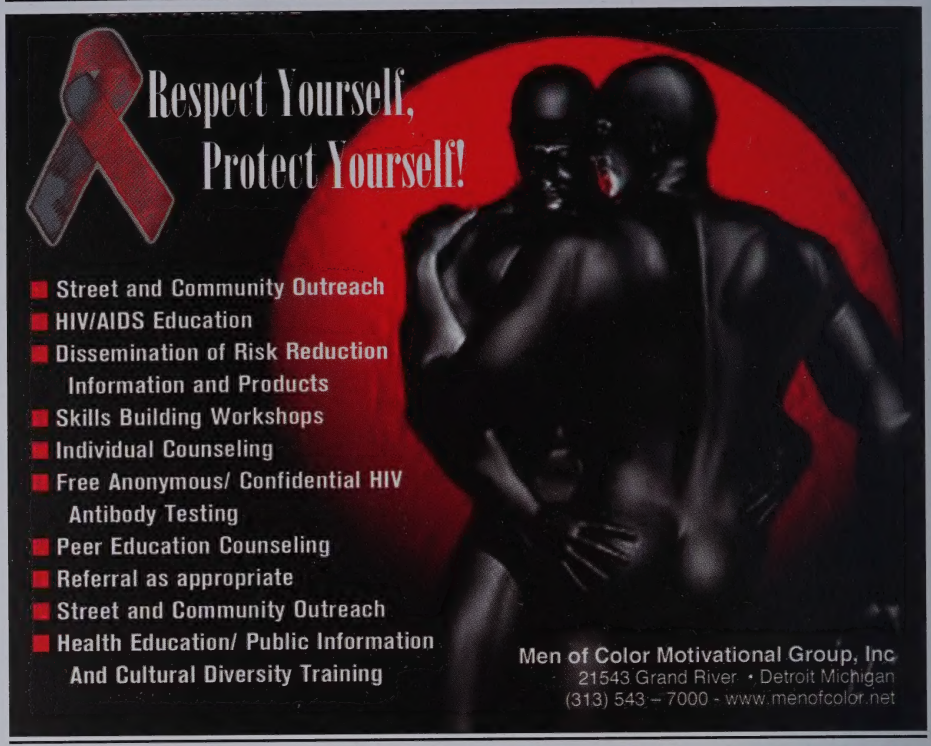
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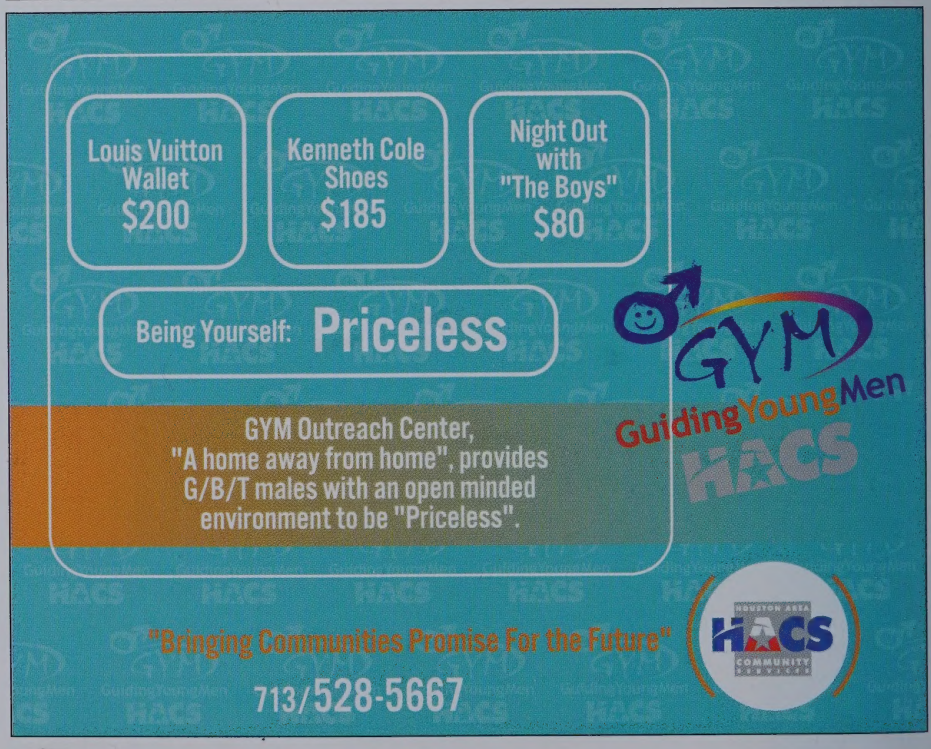
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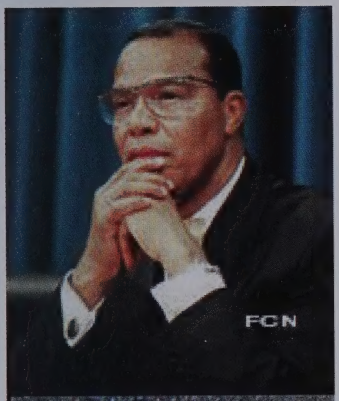

Black gays feel EXCLUDED by march organizers

Activists claim gays not welcome at Millions More rally on Mall

Black gays were conspicuously absent from a group of African-American leaders invited to attend a May 2 news conference announcing a massive rally for black civil rights organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Black gay leaders said the failure of the organizers of the Millions More Movement march to invite black gays to join the announcement gathering at the National Press Club raised questions about the sincerity of Farrakhan's decision earlier this year to invite black gay participation in the event.

A broad coalition of African-American civil rights leaders has accepted Farrakhan's invitation to put aside past differences and join forces to organize a giant rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in October to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1995 Million Man March. Unlike the 1995 event, Farrakhan has broadened the event this year to include women.

The 1995 event, held in the nation's capital, called on black men to take responsibility for their own lives by becoming better fathers, husbands and civic leaders. Although leaders of the mainstream black civil rights movement said they disagreed with Farrakhan's often hostile and sometimes anti-Semitic and anti-gay rhetoric, they said his call in 1995 for black men to take responsibility for their families and careers resonated with many African Americans.

Backing away from gays?

At a planning meeting held earlier this year at D.C.'s Union Temple Baptist Church, Farrakhan responded to a question from gay activist Phil Pannell about possible gay participation in this year's march by saying black gays were welcome to take part in all aspects of the event, according to Pannell.

Pannell said Rev. Willie Wilson, pastor of Union Temple Baptist Church and executive director of the Millions More Movement march, told him at the planning meeting that a gay speaker at the October march might also be possible.

MILLION MORE CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

MILLION MORE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

But this week, Pannell and Alexander Robinson, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, a gay rights organization, said they were concerned that Farrakhan and Wilson were backing away from their earlier commitments to include gays in all aspects of the Million More events.

"We are not welcome at this march," Pannell said after the May 2 news conference.

Robinson said the failure by organizers to invite at least one black gay leader to the announcement gathering at the National Press Club came several weeks after he informed Wilson of the National Black Justice Coalition's strong interest in becoming involved in the planning of the event. Robinson said Millions More march officials did not return his phone calls shortly before the news conference, he said.

Among those joining Farrakhan at the press event were a number of black leaders with pro-gay records, including former Democratic presidential candidates Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, D.C. Councilmember Marion Barry, D.C. congressional Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and NAACP Chair Julian Bond.

Robinson said Wilson contacted him after the news conference and told him that the march remains open to everyone and that he would ask the march's national organizing committee to consider some role for Robinson's group.

"He was pretty adamant that our inclusion would not go beyond simply attending the events," Robinson said.

'No one excluded'

Wilson told the Blade this week that the march is still in its early planning stages. He said the news conference was not intended to be an "all-inclusive" event, and that other groups and individuals would be participating in the planning of the march.

"No one is being excluded from these events," he said.

Wilson said Pannell appears to have misunderstood his comments when the two spoke during the planning meeting at Union Baptist Temple earlier this year.

"No mention was made about a speaker," Wilson said. "I told Phil that we have not reached a decision on speakers or on a platform" for the march.

Wilson said he told Robinson that Robinson's group could be considered as one of 100 "national conveners" for the march. According to Wilson, the organizing committee plans to pick groups to become national conveners based on their name recognition and "respect" in the community, their ability to raise money for the march, and their ability to boost the attendance of the march.

"I told Mr. Robinson that he should present his issues to our issues committee," Wilson said.

Robinson said Wilson indicated it would be unlikely that a black gay representative would be allowed to join the full organizing committee and would not make a commitment to push for a gay speaker at the march. Robinson said he was troubled that a Web site for the Millions More March already includes issues and "demands" that touch on a wide range of concerns for African Americans but makes no mention of problems and concerns of black gays.

"We would like the agenda to be truly inclusive," Robinson said. "We are hopeful that they will leave the door open so we can be a part of this."

Robinson noted that 40 years ago, most leaders of the black civil rights movement distanced themselves from Bayard Rustin, one of the lead organizers of the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, after they learned Rustin was gay. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have A Dream" speech at the 1963 march.

"Dr. King had confidence in Rustin," Robinson said. "But history shows that after the '63 march, he was fired from his job as a civil rights organizer."

In a statement on the march's Web site, Farrakhan said that while the 1995 Million Man March brought about some important and positive changes for the black community, "the masses have not been empowered or improved."

"The masses of our people are on a death march into the oven of social deterioration, broken homes, broken marriages, broken minds, broken spirit, evolving from a string of broken promises by government and leadership that has failed to help our people turn around the misery and wretchedness of our condition," he said.

Contact Information

Million Man March
Office
7400 South Stoney
Island Ave,
Chicago, IL 60649

Voice: 773-667-6031
FAX: 773-667-6409

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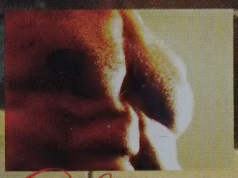
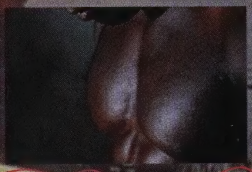

Labor Day Weekend

Sunday, September 4, 2005

Admission $5 and up

Advance tickets
at *www.naesmonline.org*

Call (404) 691-8880 for more information.

Welcome to Miami, the home of Sizzle 2005. This Memorial Day Weekend, thousands of men will converge on south Florida for the largest social gathering of the year. Sizzle Miami, conceived almost 4 years ago, has grown to become America's most celebrated and anticipated Black gay event. Originally a one-day occurrence, Sizzle has evolved into a 5-day smorgasbord of pulsating nightlife, sexy men in an atmosphere unparallel to none. For five (5) days beginning on Thursday 26th May, 2005, party seekers from around the country will convene in sunny Miami, Florida celebrating life, Pride & liberty!

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and if you do, are you getting the Care & Treatment you need?
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EMPOWER-U

Each year Sizzle Miami partners with a local HIV/AIDS agency.
In the United States, the impact of HIV and AIDS in the African-American and Latino communities is devastating. You may know that HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adults ages 25-44.

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This year, we are please to be working with and donating portions of our event receipts to Empower U Inc., a non-profit agency steadily at work in the fight against this disease that's destroying lives, families and our communities. Empower U Inc. provides outreach based initiative.

Sizzle Miami Incorporated and Empower U Inc. respectfully welcome your participation at Sizzle 2005.

For years I've attend various circuit events such as the White Party, Hot-Lanta and Winter Party. I remember often asking myself why such upscale events didn't exist in our community. Sizzle was born out of the need to bring together men from all over the country to a relaxing and fun-filled setting. Although many of us have lost loved ones to HIV/AIDS, it is important to remember that our identity is more than the negative stigmas associated with our sexual preference. We must rise up from the ruins, while dancing, and singing to confirm our place among the living.

This year at Sizzle, I want you to experience the time of your life, I want you to yell, shake and scream. I want you to dance. Like my good friend Lewis Nicholson says, I want you to dance like no one is watching. I want you to make new friends and catch up with old acquaintances while leaving all your worries behind.

As we celebrate with the living, it is extremely important that we remember to take great care of one another. At Sizzle, be prepared to meet some of the most attractive men with the sexiest bodies you'll ever encounter. If you must do more than feast your eyes, remember to let "jimmy" be your best friend!

I can't begin to describe the utter joy and excitement I get while putting this event together. Seeing all of you, enjoying yourselves makes this a very gratifying and fulfilling chore. With that said, I sincerely welcome you to Sizzle 2005 where you're encouraged to live, live, live.

Dwight Powell
President, Founder

event DJs

We can't wait to unleash these dynamic DJs that are sure to Pump You Up

DJ **JFK**
Atlanta, GA

This sexy-ass Jamaican native had played at the Warehouse and Octagon in NY, Traxx in Atlanta and the Edge in DC. Now resident at Club 708 in Atlanta

DJ **Boom**
Los Angeles, CA

Boom's East Coast flava and sound makes him one of Los Angele's hottest DJs spinning Hip-hop, House and all genre of music.

DJ Angel **Infiniti**
Miami, FL

Angel Camacho aka Angel Infiniti, a 32 yr old NuyoRican, born and raised in Spanish Harlem, New York City. At the age of 17, Angel began to explore his passion for House music, he experienced the sounds of top well known DJ's and has been to the hottest clubs with the best sound systems in the city. Experiencing the sounds of David Morales at the Red Zone, Little Louie Vega at Heart throbs to Junior Vasquez & Frankie Knuckles at the Sound Factory and Danny Tenaglia at Twilo.

DJ **Dimples**
Miami, FL

Miami's most requested DJ, DJ Dimples was born to love music. While growing up in Miami, Florida she found a fascination with her parents' old record collection and at the tender age of three - 'Miami's Queen of the Turntables' was in the making.

DJ **TPro**
New York, NY
Miami, FL

DJ T-PRO (just T to his friends) arrived New York City via Washington DC at the tender age of 17, having already played as resident DJ to DC's largest club. He soon continued his success in New York playing famous clubs like the legendary Limelight, Roxy, Tunnel, Café Con Leche, Octagon, Warehouse, Cheetah, Escuelita, Exit and the HotBoyzPride Events featuring Mary J. Blige and Lil Kim.

DJ **Keith**
New York, NY
Atlanta/GA

DJING IN THE CLUB SCENE SINCE 1988
HOME BASE CLUB TRAXX ATLANTA (NOW CLOSED JAN 2005)

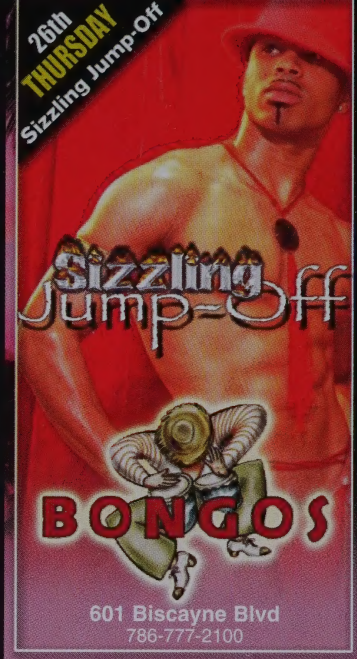
-HE SPINNED THE FOLLOWING CITIES: ATLANTA / NEW YORK / DC MIAMI / CHICAGO / THE BAHAMAS / JAMAICA

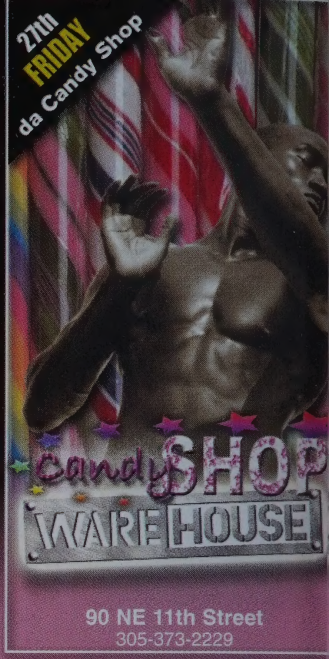
DJ **Anton**
Chicago, IL

Born Anton Brown, this Chicago native has risen from the ashes to become the voice of underground DJs. Anton promises to set you on fire.

The Sizzle Promise™

You've waited all year for this. A lot of you have even decided to use your vacation time just to come to Sizzle. Know that we are very sensitive to that. Trust us when we say, you won't be disappointed. We've assembled some of the nation's sexiest entertainment and have acquired five of Miami's hottest venues. At Sizzle, we don't limit our potential. You deserve the best that your hard earned dollar can buy... and we will always do our part to give you your money's worth. We stand behind the saying, "YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR". If we charge $25 for an event, you'll get that value and much more. That's our Sizzle promise to you.





SCHEDULE

THURSDAY 26TH MAY

12:30PM - 10:00PM

Hospitality Lounge Open

///Scooner Lounge - Host Hotel
Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, Miami
Be sure to visit The Sizzle 2005 **PARTY CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS**. Get all of the latest information on activities and events during the week. Check email in our exclusive Sizzle Cyber Café.

Jump Off Party 10:30PM - 5:30AM

///Bongos @ American Airlines Arena
601 Biscayne Blvd Miami, Florida
International superstars Gloria and Emilio Estefan introduce BONGOS CUBAN CAFÉ, a unique blend of authentic Cuban cuisine and the nostalgia of Havana during 1950's glory days. Presented in a setting of tropical deco architectural design, BONGOS is located in the heart of Downtown Miami. Come See How We Jump-Off.

FRIDAY 27TH MAY

12:30PM - 10:00PM

Hospitality Lounge Open

07:30PM - 09:30PM

Welcome Reception

///Upper Terrace /Outside - Host Hotel
Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, Miami
(Sponsored By Statscript Pharmacy)
Meet and greet other visitors from around the country. Cash bar and light horde-ours will be serviced.

10:30PM - 06:00AM

da Candy Shop

///The Warehouse - 90 NE 11th Street, Miami
Sizzle 2005 presents The Candy Shop and with one taste of what we got, We'll have giving all you got. The Sweetest night you'll every encounter.

SATURDAY 28TH MAY

11:30AM - 7:00PM

HIV/AIDS Gallery Open

///Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, Miami
Empower U Inc presents HIV/AIDS, - Then , Now And Tomorrow (Operation TNT). Informative workshops , presentations and demonstrations of how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and sustain healthier lives for those that are already infected.
See website for all of the details.

12:30PM - 9:00PM

Hospitality Lounge Open

12:30PM - 03:30PM

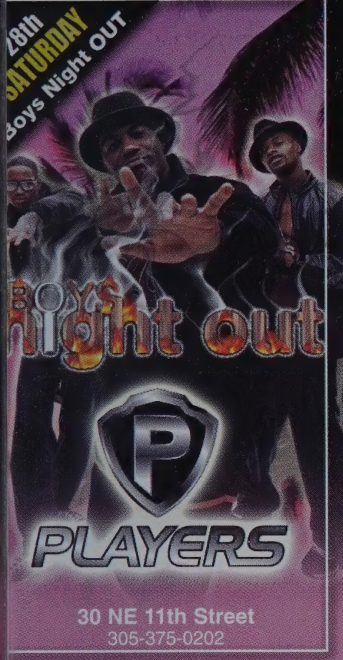
Go See

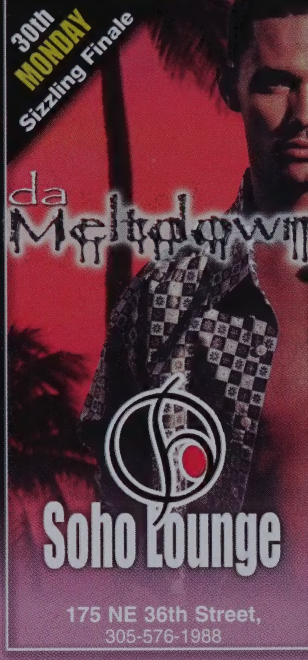
///Miami / Ft. Lauderdale / Aventura / Hollywood
Sizzle participants are encouraged to venture out and see the city of Miami and South Beach. There's a lot to see. See you back at the host hotel @ 3PM

04:00PM - 08:00PM

One Mighty Luau II - Pool Party

///Pool and Terrace - Host Hotel
Sheraton Biscayne Bay Hotel, Miami
(Sponsored By Clikque Magazine)
You absolutely must be apart of this, our signature event of Sizzle Miami. This luau is like none you'll every experience.





10:00PM - 10:30PM

VIP Reception

///(Hospitality Suite 17th Floor
(Sponsored By NBJC)
By Invitation - Open bar and complimentary horde-ours.

10:30PM - 08:00AM

Boys Night Out (Block Party)

///Players Club & Lounge
30NE 11th Street, Miami
The permits have been approved by the city of Miami. We're about to have a bad-ass block party like you've never seen before.

SUNDAY 29TH MAY

11:30AM - 7:00PM

HIV/AIDS Gallery Open

12:30PM - 9:00PM

Hospitality Lounge Open

12:30PM - 06:30PM

Sizzle Beach Ball II

///Haulover - 1250 NW 22nd Ave, North Miami
Join thousands of sun-worshippers as they bask on one Florida's white sandy beaches. For those of you that may wish to take it all off, well that's ok here. Haulover is one of South Florida's few nude beaches. Please observe all rules and regulation posted. Because of the amount of people expected on the beaches this weekend, permits are not issued for large gatherings,. Therefore Sizzle won't be able to put on an organized function on the beach. But don';t let this stop you from taking in the sun on this beautiful sandy beach.

07:00PM - 02:00AM

Red Carpet Ball

///Polish American Club
1250 NW 22nd Ave, Miami
Makuta Chanel Versace and Sizzle 2005 presents the Red Carpet Ball – "Battle Of The Superstars. Church @ Club Space ///Official After-party. Show your Ball ticket and enter at reduced rate.

10:30PM - 08:00AM

The Jungle

///Pure Nightlife - 66 SW 6th Street, Miami
Last year we gave you Egyptian Gods and Angels with wings. This year on our prime night, we present the Jungle. Tarzan ain't got shit on our men. Yes all 23 of them. Pure was our most talked about venue of the year, this year event last year's guest will be amazed. We've got few surprises up our sleeve.

MONDAY 30TH MAY

12:30PM - 04:30PM

Hospitality Lounge Open

12:30PM - 03:30PM

Go See

10:30PM - 04:00AM

Sizzling Finale

///SoHo Lounge
(Miami Design District)
This is one of two venues we'll be returning to this year. And you'll see why returning is indeed essential. SoHo Lounge is a sexy, relaxing night-club that features three sexy floors on two levels. As they say, best things comes to those that wait.... or stay to the end.

BLACK, GAY, PROFESSIONAL

By: George H. Smith J.D., Ph.D.

Those of you who have already reached the point in life where your current day to day activities consist of arduous tasks such as boardrooms, power – lunches, contracts and deadlines will jump aboard immediately, everyone else feel free to walk at your own pace, if you get tired just stop where you are, we'll pick you up if you're still there on our way back.

If you take a good look around your office and see an abundance of African - American faces, they're probably sitting at desks housed by cubicles. Now take a look at the doors that align the hallway leading to the big corner office where "he" sits and that's if he's even housed on the same floor as you because, more likely than not, he's "upstairs" where the coffees are gourmet, the carpets are thicker and the luncheons are catered, not dropped off by a deliveryman. Most of those doors adorned with marble nameplates and trimmed in gold are stenciled with names that go something like, "Sarah, Peter, Peyton or Brad" and not an abundance of Dante's, Lakeisha's or Darnells'.

It is time in 2005 that African American gay men assert themselves in Corporate America. It is quite possible to be the executive in the boardroom and the hot boy in Timberlands at the club.

Welcome to Corporate America! Land, free from blatant homosexuality, and home of "the man." It's hard enough to carve your niche' in a world dominated by Caucasian men, because as a African American man you have to be three times as good as your counter part to successfully maneuver your way up the same corporate ladder. The ladder becomes increasingly slippery if you are an African American gay man. After white men, (to include gay and straight), white women,

African American women, African American men and then everyone else (and usually in that order) are all in line for the prestigious positions in the professional hierarchy.

Where does the gay, African American Male fit into the corporate scheme? Does he slide in between white and African American women? Does you jump ahead of the white woman, placing yourself behind the white man, or do you consciously file yourself at the end of the line, standing behind "the others"?

The cards seem to be stacked against the gay African American male the minute he enters the building and just as blatantly, unless he's answering the phones at the front desk, it seems that the African American gay male doesn't have a chance, or a place.

Now I'm not naïve enough to suggest that there are no gay, African American men in corporate America because there are plenty, but unfortunately, they are forced to play "the game" governed by rules created by the "good ole boys", entertaining the flirtations of the female office staff, placing pictures of their female "friend" (who really is just a friend) on your desk and sometimes, even sporting a wedding ring and not because you want to, but more importantly, because you "have" to.

The wedding ring, excuses his disinterest in the women on the office staff who continually throw themselves at him. And why wouldn't they? After all he's handsome, well groomed, wearing Dolce & Gabanna suits, Ceasar Pacotti shoes, and Gucci belts better known as your business "drag". Only if the women in the office could see this distinguished gentlemen in the club wearing his Timberland's and Roberto Cavali jeans showing his chiseled chest to all the guys. He shies away from most of the after-hour office gatherings and get-togethers because he does not want jaws to drop and tongues to wag at first glance at your escort for the evening, Keith.

It's not long after entering the office pool that the inevitable begins. Questions about his evasiveness regarding his personal life, the fact that he has no children and the receptionists' proactive observations during water cooler chit chats that, most of his calls seem to come from men. And then it begins, caught between a rock and a hard place, he has a decision to make - does he continue to be the professional that he's been trained to be and ignore the idle chatter that he's grown to expect? Or does he finally blow - up because he's finally had his fill and become the queen they've all been expecting to rear his ugly head?

In most of these situations he becomes one of two people; to the heterosexual male infrastructure he will forever and always be "the black - fag downstairs" who's pretty good at what he does, but never gets much respect, and to the women in the office he's simply the cool, gay guy who they really

BLACK GAY PROFESSIONAL CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

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Taking Responsibility Is Being Empowered

The goal of The TRIBE HIV Prevention Program at Empower "U" is to decrease the risk of HIV transmission among young African-American MSMs. We work towards increasing knowledge and awareness about HIV, increasing HIV testing among young black MSMs, and facilitating HIV risk reduction skills development and decision making.

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TRIBE
a program of Empower "U", Inc.

"Until there's a cure"
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Miami, FL 33147
(786) 318-2337

Visit Us Online At:
www.Empower-U-Miami.org

Program Funded By The Alliance Service

BLACK GAY PROFESSIONAL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

don't have to respect as much because he's more like a new girlfriend in a front office position, rather than the seasoned professional he truly is.

Now that he has carved his way, making it through the ranks effectively proving himself as a qualified black, professional - the cats out of the bag and now all his work seems to be fruitless because he's forced to prove himself all over again, only this time as a qualified, gay African American Man.

It is time in 2005 that African American gay men assert themselves in Corporate America, It is quite possible to be the executive in boardroom and be the hot boy in Timberlands at the club. It takes discipline and boundaries. African American gay men are woven into the fabric of the corporate structure physicians, attorneys, scholars, educators, philosophers, professional athletes, entertainers, and the list goes on. For those who have decided that they will live their lives being the individual that they are who happens to be a gay African American Male, you are taking one giant step for all who identify as being same gender loving. It is time for America to to see the quintessential professional man, who happens to be gay, male and African American, not the switching resident African American gay character we see in every movie, sitcom or chicken circuit play. This professional man is not to be confused with Down Low brothers who hide behind this farce of suedo-machoism for their own acception of their warped reality of who they really are.

The greatest issue we face as a self identified, same loving gender beings is who the youth has to look at as an example during their time of self awareness and the realization of who they are mentally and sexually. Oftentimes our youth only has the influence of television images, nite clubs, and the popular personalities that are considered "gay icons." In this day and age it is time to show people that African American gay men are suited up, highly educated professionals as well as sexy B-Boys with a sexy bodies and Timberland boots. We are all of the above.

This is an editorial written by George H. Smith J.D., Ph.D., and does not reflect any opinions of Clikque Magazine, Advertisers, or Affilates of Dr .Smith, or Clikque Magazine.

Photos Taken by Celebrity Photographer Kevin Jeffries
Photo Image: Dr. George H. Smith

SPIRITUAL SEX:
CAN YOU MAKE LOVE TO GOSPEL MUSIC?

The following is the second of a three part essay series dealing with the vibrant intersection of spirituality and sexuality within the black gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving community. The series mission is to provide a guideline on how to seek out healthy romantic, same-gender-loving relationships under the spiritual guidance and direction of God.

Picture it if you will. Two bruthas tightly locked in a loving embrace. Their enlarged swords of mocha flesh rub between their smooth and hairy thighs as their respective tongues dance the tango in each other's mouths while their inquisitive hands delicately grope each other's sagging crown jewels.

One partner slowly reaches to turn on the sound system to accentuate the moment with just the right lovemaking song. Is it Luther, Brian Mcknight, or old school Barry White? Guess again! Try Smoky Norful's, „I Need You Now.

Now picture this. Two nubian sistahs are gently lying on top of each other. Their legs are intertwined like pretzels as their slow cradle develops into a steady bump and grind, forcing there plump and nipple erect breasts to cheerfully glide, slide, and become one swath of erotic flesh of sisterhood.

The perfect song? „Let's Get It On‰ by Marvin Gaye or „Get Your Freak On?‰ by Missy Elliot? Guess again! The song of choice for this loving couple is „Riding Through The Storm‰ by Yolanda Adams, as it fits the ebb and flow of their spiritual relationship.

Do you see anything wrong with these two examples, combining the spiritual with the sexual? If so, why do you feel this way? Bottom line, is there anything inherently wrong or sacrilegious about lovemaking to gospel music, to God's music, to the music of angels?

Can you as a gay/lesbian, same-gender-loving man or woman engage in intense lovemaking to the lyrical tunes and romantic sounding ballads of praise and worship music without fear, shame, or guilt? If the answers is no, then again I ask you why??

If you are indeed in a spiritual romance (installment #1), and you have individually developed your relationship with God, prayed for a spiritually yoked gay/lesbian man/woman, and you're now engaged in a monogamous, same-gender-loving relationship, then why not also allow the Holy Spirit to guide the two of you in your lovemaking as well?

Engaging in Holy Spirit driven lovemaking is the ultimate level of conciseness between two people engaged within a spiritual romance. But in order for us to get to this level, we must remember that sex is NOT just a physical act but that it is also a spiritual act as well.

It isn't just about busting a nut or reaching multiple orgasms, but instead it is an exchange of spirits, spirituality, personality, forces of emotions, and complexities of affections, attractions, individualism, and charisma.

If you are in a spiritual romance with another person, then your mutual love for God will eventually grow in every aspect of your lives, so it would seem only fitting that you would also allow God's presence to grow within your bedroom as well.

Surrounded by the dental dams, condoms, lube, dildos, vibrators, strap-ons, gloves, magazines, camcorders, and videotapes, God is already sitting in the midst of your bedroom and he is still very much connected to you; regardless of which partner and how many partners you lie with.

We are never separated from God, so why do we try and separate him from our lovemaking? In actuality we should really be praying to God asking him to show us how to please our partner and the best way for our partner to please us.

If the Holy Spirit, which dwells inside us is our teacher and guide, then why not ask the Holy Spirit to give us

insight on new and creative ways to have dynamic lovemaking in our spiritual exchange with one another?

Even further, why not allow that insight to be revealed to us in the midst of a spiritually based song of praise, worship, and adoration of the one who invented sex, sexuality and the joys which surround it?

Additionally, let us also remember that a spiritual exchange in lovemaking does not always have to include or involve intercourse. In other words, two men do not have to engage in anal sex in order to have a spiritual exchange and two women do not have to engage in intercourse of any kind (i.e fingering, cunnilingus, strap-ons, dildo) in order to have a spiritual exchange in lovemaking.

Speaking only with the eyes, sharing an intense hug or an erotic massage, and invoking a thoughtful kiss are also examples of exchanging spirits. We must always remember that lovemaking is highly spiritual and extremely emotional and requires much thought, mediation and compassion.

What other way to get us into this mood than to allow CeCe Winans, „Holy Spirit, Come Fill This Place‰ to bring us into this state in the midst of slow yet passionately intense foreplay?

There is really nothing irreverent or sacrilegious about it. God invented sex for both reproduction and procreation as well as for our mutual enjoyment and spiritual exchange as adult loving individuals.

We must not be ashamed of this fact nor of our desire to allow God to breathe in us and to breathe through us in every sexual expression, position and act that we engage in. Finally, we must not allow cultural, religious, societal, and internalized homophobia to drive us as gay/lesbians to foolishly attempt to separate our bedroom activities from the altar.

Remember that God can be worshipped and praised and given the HIGHEST glory while wearing your Sunday,s best during altar call or while lying butt naked next to the one that you love. **CM**

The upcoming 3rd and final installment is titled „Spiritual Orgasm: Praise and Worship after Lovemaking.‰ As a same-gender-loving man or woman, after just having had mind-blowing and intense lovemaking, can you now pray on your knees in front of your partner? Can you read your bible immediately afterwards? Can you preach, teach or sing Amazing Grace right after your orgasm? Or do you need time to distance your sex from your praise?

Herndon L. Davis is a Los Angeles based writer and author of *"Black, Gay & Christian"* and can be reached at http://blackgaychristian.com

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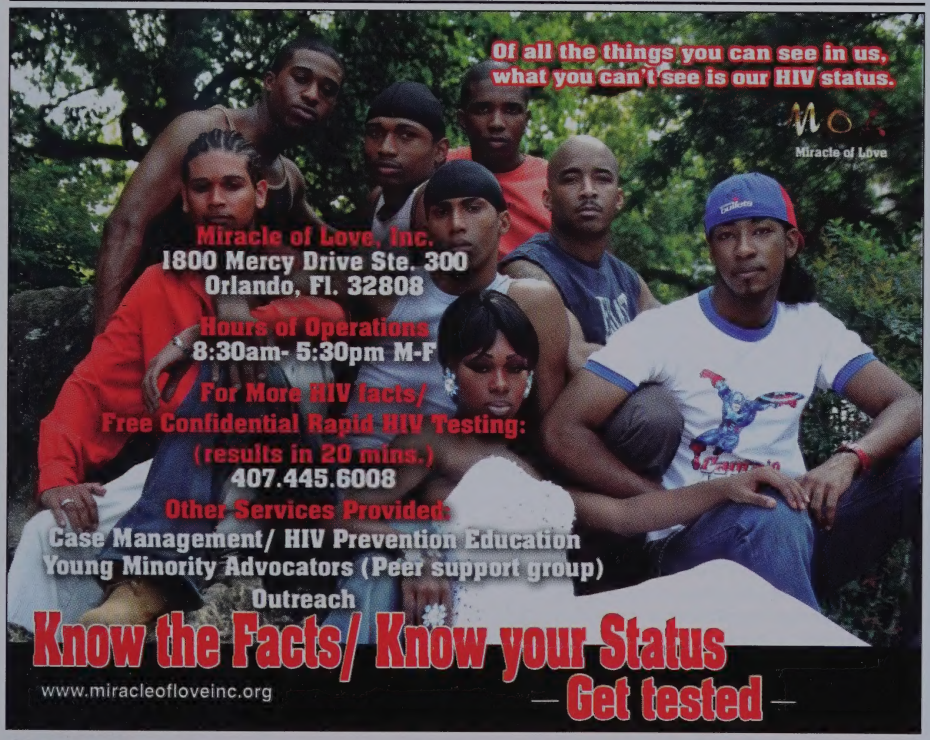
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— Get tested —

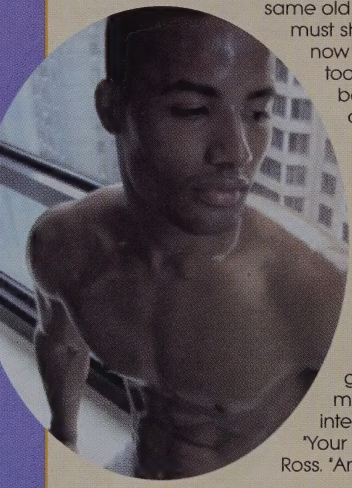
by Mitch Rustad

the INSIDER:
6 Secrets of a Personal Trainer

The warm breezes of spring can turn cool in a hurry if the thought of swimsuit season makes you–and trust me, you're not along in this–mercilessly scrutinize your naked flesh in the mirror. But getting fit isn't just about getting attention on the beach; working out reduces stress, increases feel-good endorphins and boosts your winter-weary metabolism.

Still not motivated? Then we've got some more good news for you. We asked personal trainer S. Ross, ACE, NSCA, to share some of his fitness secrets. Here's a sampling:

TRY SHOCK THERAPY.



Before long, your muscles get bored with the same old routine. That's why, says Ross, "you must shock the body with a new routine now and then to keep it from getting too comfortable." Ross suggests a full body workout, in which you spend an hour doing 10 different exercises that focus on various regions of your entire body, two or three times a week.

Another way to break up your routine, says Ross, is to vary your reps. If you usually do 10 reps per set, for example, lower the weight for a few weeks and crank out 15 to 18 reps instead. And if you're really feeling energetic, jump rope for three to five minutes between sets. This high intensity training will help burn fat. "Your body won't know what hit it," says Ross. "And that's a good thing."

GET A WORKOUT PARTNER.

The next best thing to a personal trainer is a workout partner. Besides providing extra motivation, your partner will spot you while you squeeze out those all-important extra reps. And if you're tempted to skip a workout, the guilt of leaving your partner in a lurch should keep you on track, big time. "A workout partner is one of the best ways to keep you focused and working hard," says Ross, who trains with a partner himself.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

How do you think personal trainers became experts in their field? They did their homework -- and so can you. Fitness magazines, books and Web sites can help you become your own fitness expert, or at least devise a solid workout routine. "I suggest clipping helpful articles and bringing them to the gym," says Ross. "Try new exercises and ask your workout partner to make sure you're doing them correctly."

FORM IS EVERYTHING!

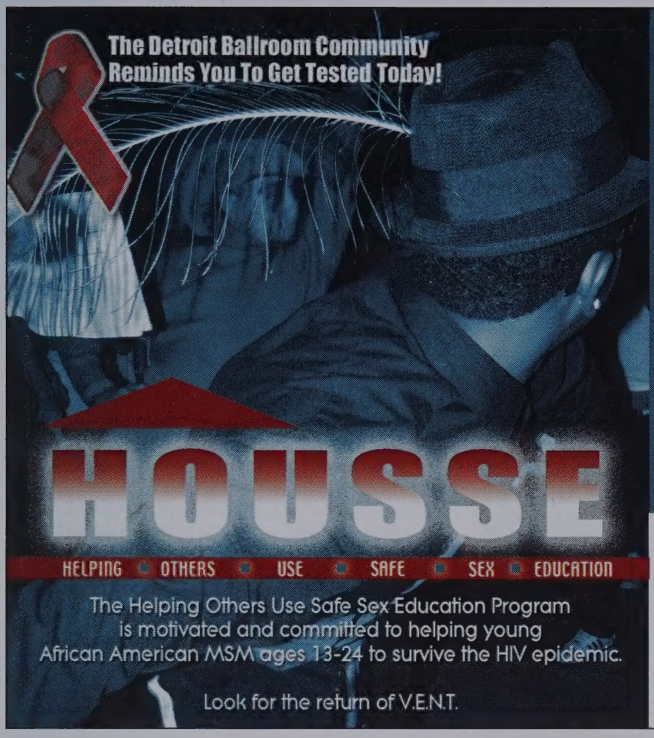
Lifting heavy weights may look impressive, but if done incorrectly, it won't help to sculpt your body. If you want results, you need to have the right form. "Spend some time refocusing on the importance of form," says Ross. "Even reduce the amount of weight and change your focus to: 'Am I doing this exercise correctly?'"

WATCH AND LEARN.

One of the easiest ways to pick up exercise tips is to observe how other people work out. Check out the guys with the ripped bodies (as if you're not already doing this!) and pay attention to their form. You might even learn a new exercise, or a variation of an exercise already incorporated into your routine. "I watched and learned when I first started working out," says Ross. But beware: not every guy with a ripped body has good form. "A lot of people can have great bodies, but really bad form," Ross adds. "Form is the first priority. Watch others, but proceed with caution."

HIRE A TRAINER ONCE A MONTH.

Forget about buying a gorgeous new outfit and book a session with a trainer once a month instead. A few sessions can help you perfect your routine, which will make every subsequent trip to the gym more effective. "Sometimes we forget why we're even doing an exercise, and we focus only on lifting a weight," says Ross. "A trainer could help you feel the muscles you're training, and refocus your mind on form and technique."


The Detroit Ballroom Community
Reminds You To Get Tested Today!
HOUSSE
HELPING • OTHERS • USE • SAFE • SEX • EDUCATION
The Helping Others Use Safe Sex Education Program
is motivated and committed to helping young
African American MSM ages 13-24 to survive the HIV epidemic.
Look for the return of V.E.N.T.

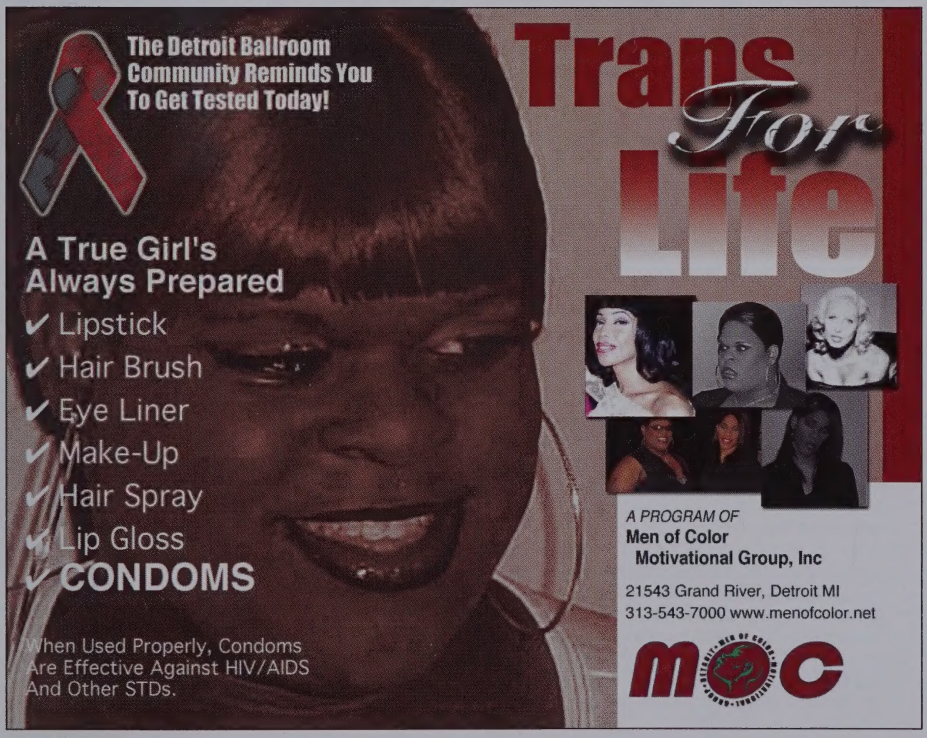
CALENDAR

April 16, 2005
The House Of Rodeo
Presents The Recreation
Of Anninmation Ball
In Southfield Michigan
@ The Howard Johnson
Hotel

July 24-31, 2005
(Hotter Than July)
Detoit's Gay Pride

A PROGRAM OF
Men of Color
Motivational Group, Inc

21543 Grand River, Detroit MI
313-543-7000 www.menofcolor.net



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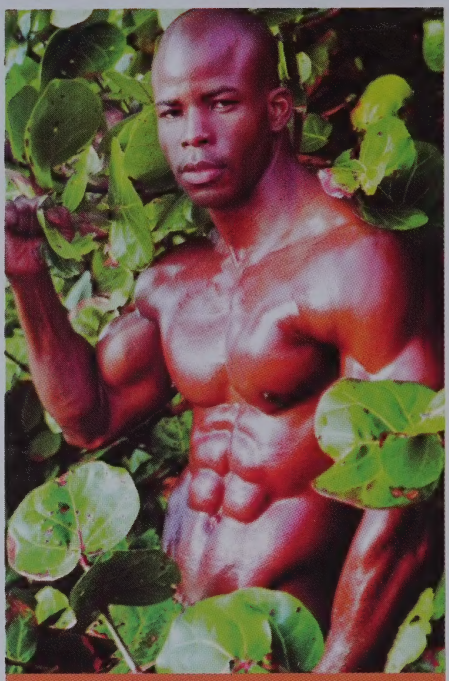


Upclose & Personal

With SUPERMODEL NGO

NGO has achieved success in his modeling and acting career, however, it has not been an easy ride. He's had to overcome numerous obstacles, both physically and mentally, to reach my dream. He's his story

NGO was born Ngoli Onyeka Okafor on the 30th of December, in Framingham, Massachusetts. His parents Clement and Rose Okafor are from the Ibo speaking region in Nigeria. Ngo is short for Ngoli that means joy in Ibo. NGO shared that he was named Ngoli because his parents were overjoyed at the birth a second son (moi).

At the time that he was born his father was finishing up his PhD program at Harvard University. "My family and I moved home to Nigeria shortly before my second birthday. The sixteen years that I spent growing up in Nigeria helped build the strength in character that has propelled me through all of life's challenges," he shared. Nigeria was a great place to grow up during his early years. Nigeria was one of the richest countries in the world due to the oil boom. Several businesses flocked to Nigeria from all over the world, looking to take advantage of the oil riches. They subsequently brought their families over to join them. As a result of the growing cultural diversity, NGO grew up with kids from Asia, Europe, the U.S.A., and other countries in Africa. He learned early in life that skin color was not as important as the content of a person's heart.

In the summer of 1994, a war seemed imminent in Nigeria. His parents did not want the entire family stuck there so they decided that he would flee the country and take refuge in the United States. Shortly after NGO's arrival to the United States, he was accepted to attend the University of Connecticut. After three years of school he took a job with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Then he was off teaching engineers and architects how to draw using computers. The desire for life in a bigger city led NGO to take a job working for another computer company in New York City. Unfortunately, before he could really settle down and enjoy my new job, he was laid off.

Demoralized and confused, NGO pondered his next move. Then, one day in the gym, a photographer approached him (don't they always) and wanted to do a photo shoot with the young stud. "The shoot was such a fun experience, one I wanted to continue. This began the uphill battle of my career as a professional model", recalls NGO. Work was hard to come by because there were limited job opportunities for black models in the business. "To this day, I still has people in influential positions tell me, I am too big, too muscular, too tall, to grow my hair and all kinds of other insensitive comments which were meant to consciously or unconsciously break my spirit, said NGO. Every door he tried to open were met with rejections, but he held on until he got his first job. It was with non other that than the Queen of soul Mary J. Blige and the Quenn Bee, rapper lil' Kim for MAC cosmetics. NGO started acting shortly afterwards by accident he shares, "I was looking for an agent's office and happened to walk in on an audition for a film for Major League Baseball. I went in with little preparation and a Xerox copy of my headshot. I got the job!!"

Since then his work as a model has been featured in several magazines such as Vogue, Vibe, The source, ESPN magazine, Fortune magazine, Honey, W, among others. His work as an actor has been featured on TV and on video.

"As my career continues to rise, I must stay grounded. I cannot forget the struggles and sacrifices that brought me to where I am today. I hope that my journey through life will serve as motivation and a shining example that dreams do come true if only you believe" shares NGO.

Here's a little more from SUPERMODEL NGO.

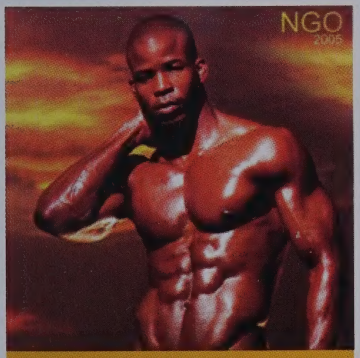
CM: What kind of workout routine do you stick to?
My workout routing is as follows - 45 minutes of cardio(I run between 3 and 4 6 minute miles and ride the bike for 30 minutes) and 1 hour of weights. My weight training routing involves a drop sets for exercise that I do. I work on a different body part each day. I workout 5 days a week.

CM: What events will you be participating in this year? Television shows? Movies?
I have a couplem of movies, TV shows and modeling campaigns in the works for this year. In addition these, I will on a nationwide tour to promote my 2005 calendar. Proceeds from the calendar tour will be donated to the Tsunami relief efforts.

CM: Tell me more about your general_ philosophy about training?
My philosophy on training is to stay fit and strong for life. In order to do so I believe in building in building a strong heart by doing cardiovascular exercises and strong muscles by lifting weights. Stretching is also extremely important to prevent injury.

CM: What are your tips for those who want to succeed in Hollywood? How can an actor make him or herself physically more appealing to casting director?
The most important thing to keep in mind is that overnight success stories are an anomaly in the entertainment business. You have to be prepared to work hard. Remember that the camera adds 15 to 20 pounds, therefore, you will appear bigger on screen. Focus on building leaner muscle instead of just bulking up.

CM: What does a day of your diet usually look like? Break it down by times if you can. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks? What are your favorite cheat foods?
My daily diet is as follows Breakfast: 4-6 eggs and a bowl of oatmeal Lunch: Chicken/ beef with potatoes and vegetables - Dinner:Tuna and vegetables - Snack: A protein bar On my cheat days, I treat myself to a heavy dosage Jamaican beef patties.



The NGO 2005 Calendar

FROM SUPERMODEL NGO, COMES THE 2005 CALENDAR. THIS CALENDAR HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVING RAVE REVIEWS AS THE SEXIEST CALENDAR FOR 2005.

ORBER FROM HIS OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

http://www.getingo.com

You may also send a check or money order to the following address: Ngo Okafor, PO BOX 1670 NY., NY., 10013

CM: What kind of supplements do you take?
I take a daily multivitamin

CM: What is your height and (approximate) weight?
I am 6'3" and I weigh about 195 pounds

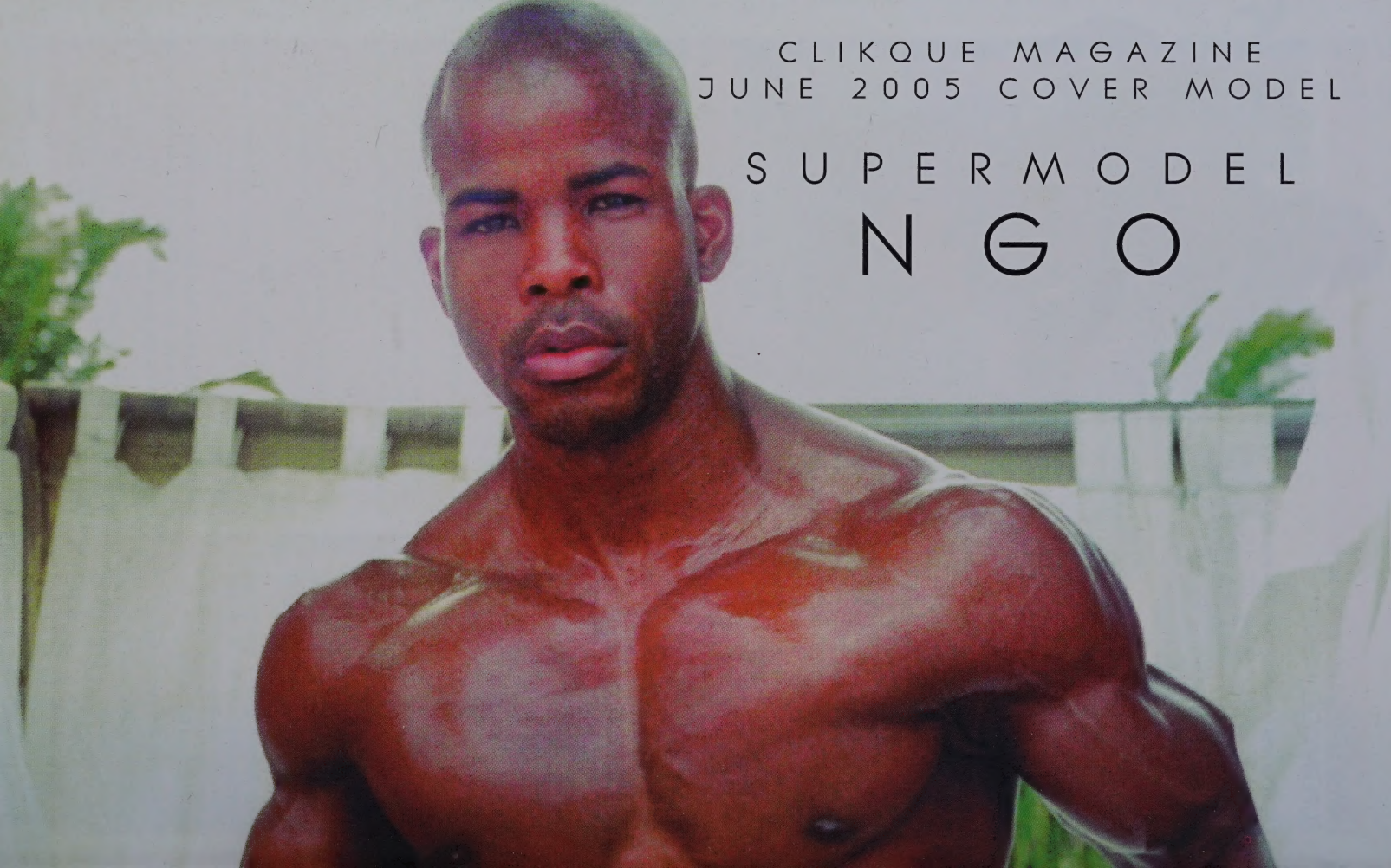
CM: What is your education? Did you engage in any sports while at school?
I studied computer Science at The University of Connecticut and then went on to study theater at The Lee Strassberg Theater Institute, in New York. I played pickup basketball, soccer and flag football while at school.

CM: What made you start working out?
I was extremely thin when I was younger and wanted to get bigger.

CM: What are your plans for the future?
I plan to produce and star in my own movies within the next few years.

CM: What are your hobbies. What do you do to relax?
My hobbies include making short films with my friends, watching movies, writing and listening to music.

CM: How can fans get in touch with you?
I can be reached via email through my website - WWW.GETINGO.COM. I respond to my regularly.


CLIKQUE MAGAZINE
JUNE 2005 COVER MODEL
SUPERMODEL
NGO

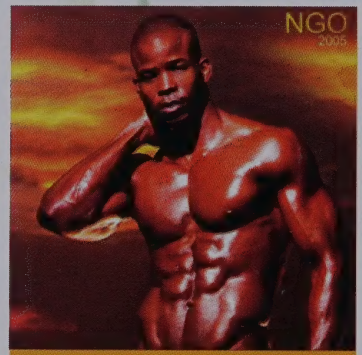


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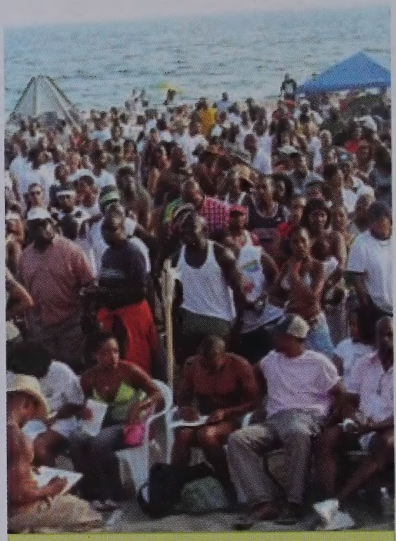
Photo: George Brown

Black Prides:

Does green know the difference between Black and White?



The Miami Herald recently ran an article entitled "Gay Pride Celebrations: the Nation's Top 10 Festivals are Diverse and Delightful," unfortunately there was nothing diverse or delightful in its choices. Topping the list of most festive gay pride celebrations were New York City, San Francisco and Long Beach (California). However, their equally popular and festive counterparts were no where to be found on the list.

As Black gay pride organizers scramble to provide comprehensive cultural celebrations for their thousands of anticipated guests this year, the Herald's top ten list, was a slap in the face and further feeds into the notion that gay and now gay pride is white.

The International Federation of Black Prides is home to 25 Black gay pride celebrations, including Toronto and South Africa. These cultural celebrations are flocked to each year by thousands of Black same-gender loving persons are all over the country, some with a cult following. The three largest and highly attended celebrations include D.C Black Pride celebrating 15 years Memorial Day weekend, At the Beach Los Angeles Black Pride celebrating 17 years Independence Day weekend and Atlanta Black Pride celebrating 9 years Labor Day weekend.

These celebrations each typically bring in around 10,000 people that are culturally diverse, socially active, event loyal, frequent travelers and beauty, health, fitness and fashion conscious. Given all of these facts, why then do Black prides still receive less financial support than their white counterparts?

A look at the websites of the Herald's top ten picks shows financial support from Delta Airlines, Travelocity, Absolute Vodka, Gay.com, Showtime, Starbucks, Bud Light, Bank of America, PlanetOut.com, Hertz, Virgin and more. But take a closer look at who is sponsoring Black pride celebrations.

Black pride organizations cater to the Black gay community and unfortunately, this community is still being affected in large numbers by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. So it's only obvious that pharmaceutical companies and AIDS service organizations would want to sponsor events where they can target a high number of Black gays with their message. However, there is so much more to the Black gay community than HIV/AIDS prevention. We dine out, read the newspaper, watch television, travel, buy clothes, and are included in the overall contributions of African-Americans to the U.S. economy.

In addition, it's not just at the corporate level that companies do not sponsor Black gay pride celebrations. Many elected officials shun off Black pride celebrations to their health deputy's (HIV/AIDS) instead of to their city's cultural affairs office where these celebra-

tions should be getting support from as well. Like Black film festivals that highlight Blacks in the filmmaking business, Black gay pride celebrations are cultural events that celebrate the uniqueness of being Black and gay,

So that should open up a plethora of sponsorship opportunities for Black gay prides, not only from the companies listed above but from Viacom who owns Black Entertainment Television, TVOne, RadioOne, Ebony, JET, ESSENCE, Walmart, Target, NAACP, Urban League, music labels, and other businesses that thrive off of Black dollars.

With new networks HERE and LOGO targeting gay viewers, they too could benefit from marketing to Black gays at pride celebrations. Without the support of the Black gay prides last year, LOGO's Noah's Arc, America's first Black gay television series debuting in September, would probably still be a straight to DVD production.

I once had a corporate marketing executive tell me that they sponsored a Black film festival and sponsored a gay pride celebration so they didn't see the need to sponsor a Black gay pride. In their mind, Black was straight and gay was white and there was nothing in between. Sadly, that's the misinformed thinking of many corporate executives when it comes to marketing.

The irony in all of this is that at most white gay pride celebrations, you see about a handful of Blacks. In a recent poll, Black gays were asked, if given a choice would you attend a white pride celebration or a Black pride celebration. An overwhelming number of those polled indicated that they would attend their Black pride celebration.

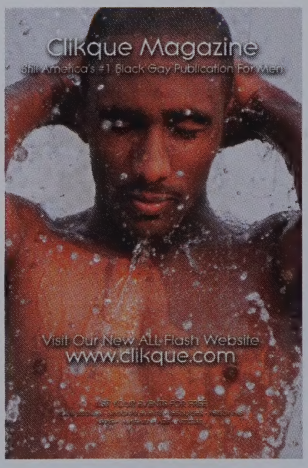
If white Conservative Christian evangelicals can see the value in marketing to straight Blacks regarding gay marriage, why can't companies see the value in marketing to Black gays?

Take me for example. I am a 27-year-old Black lesbian. I listen to National Public Radio everyday. I have a subscription to my local daily newspaper, the Advocate, Black Enterprise, and ESSENCE Magazine. I watch Desperate Housewives every Sunday and pick up my weekly Black newspapers every Thursday and Friday. I shop faithfully at Lane Bryant and Ashley Stewart. I find myself in an airport traveling once or twice a month and I vote regularly.

I think quite a few companies would benefit from marketing me and others like me.

So while, the Miami Herald probably boosted the incoming sponsorship dollars for the 10 prides it listed in its article, it did a disservice to people of color gay prides across the nation and further fed into corporate America's notion that gay is white.

A frequent presence on television and radio, Jasmyne Cannick has appeared on numerous media programs, including Black Entertainment Television News, the Tavis Smiley Show, Fox News and the Bev Smith Show. She has also been featured or quoted in articles in the Associated Press, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, St. Petersburg Times, Africana.com and Bet.com. Cannick, 27, is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, a board member of the National Black Justice Coalition, Los Angeles Black Gay Pride and co-producer of the new cable series Noah's Arc, America's First Black Gay Series.



The W

Pri

Friday July 1st

DJ Anton, DJ Karizma

@ Prop House,

1675 N. Elston • 10pm-4am

www.railschi.net

Saturday July 2nd

BBQ & **Strip Fest** - Exotic Dancers

Atl • DC • NYC • Chi • Philly

Hosted by Ms Ruff-n-Stuff

DJ Kenae & DJ SP1 in the Red Room

@ Taste Night Club,

6331 S. Lowe • 10pm-5am

(Sizzle Miami, Ozone Ent, Strongarm, Rails, Talents of Chi, OTDL)

Saturday July 2n

Rails BLACK BERRY JAM

Hip-Hop King: DJ Anton

Hosted by Otis Mack

@ Club Reunion,

811 W. lake St. • 10pm-3am

Sunday July 3

OTDL Presents: Freedo

Hip-Hop & House – DJ

DJ Kenae & DJ SP1 in th

@ Club Zentra,

923 W. Weed St • 11pm

Monday July 4th

Tut & Club House Productio

Hosted by Otis Mack & Mz.

10pm-4am • 312.398.8960

Chicago's Best Entert

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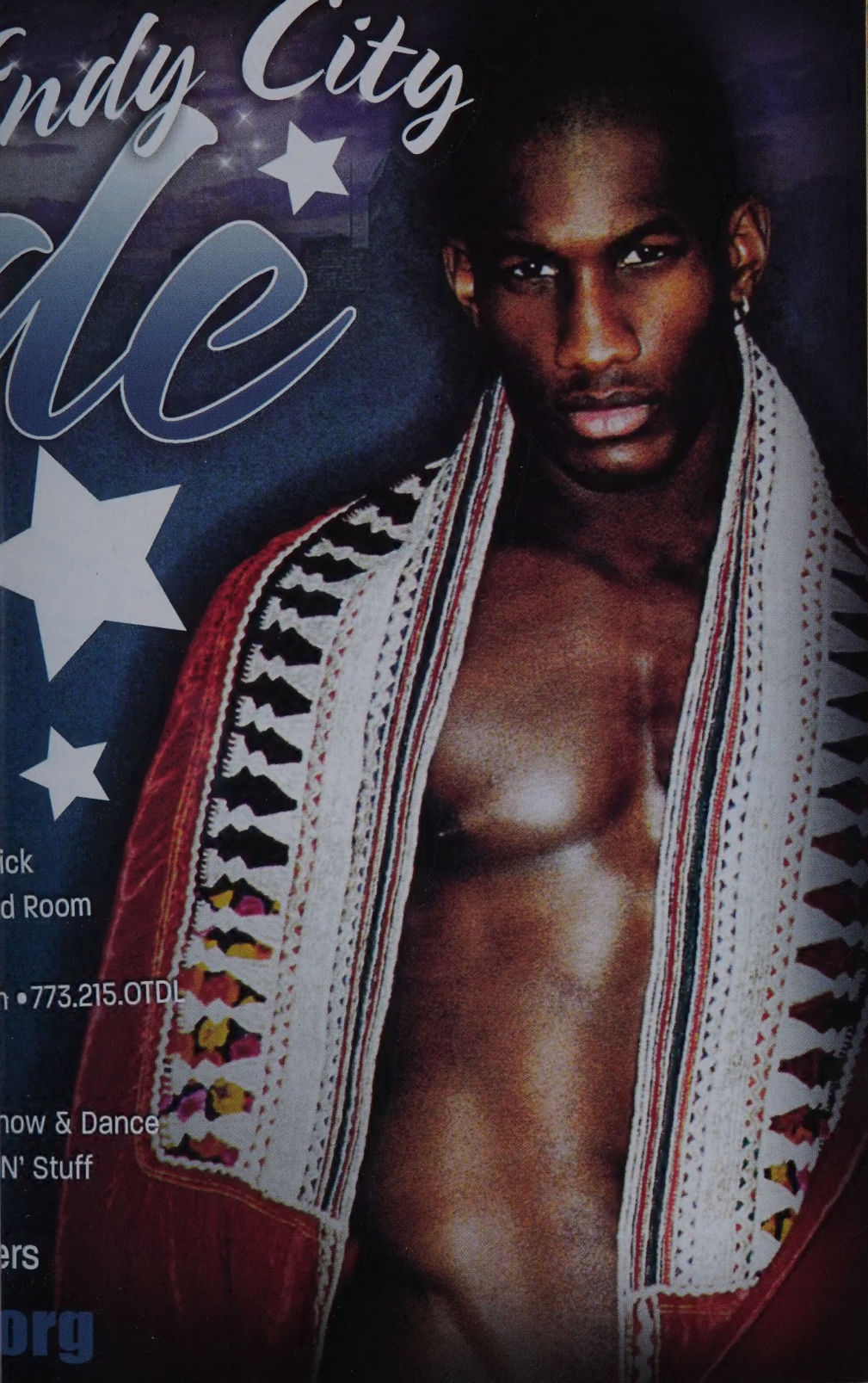
ndy City
dle
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d Room
n •773.215.OTDL
now & Dance
N' Stuff
ers
org

top twenty

TOP 20

THINGS NOT TO DO AT PRIDE THIS YEAR

20— Don't have more than four people sharing one hotel room

19— Don't forget to tip the bartenders and strippers even if they're visually challenging

18— Don't come to the club if your not looking to have a good time

17— Don't forget to bathe and use deodorant before leaving to go to the club

16— Don't take up all the space on the dance floor

15— Don't expect a guy to buy you a drink just because you're cute

14— Don't bother the DJ with request

13— Don't expect to be on the guest list

12— Don't fight in the club

11— Don't use other people's credit cards

10— Don't give it up on the first night of a 3 day weekend, he'll wait "if" you're worth it

9— Don't expect to find a new boyfriend

8— Don't wear make up or contacts cause he may not recognized you in the morning

7— Don't wear last year's pride fashions

6— Don't tell people your a true top if you're not

5— Don't bring your old or current boyfriend

4— Don't bring six months amount of clothes for a three day weekend

3— Don't wear clothes 2 times smaller than your actual size

2— Don't bring an over night bag to the club

1— Don't get upset when you realize that you're not the only cute person at pride

Another Dwight Powell Production In Conjunction With Central Florida Black Pride, Inc.

PRIDE

JULY 14 THRU 17 2005

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TAMPA / ORLANDO

and surrounding areas

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Come and be apart of the hottest pride event ever to hit Central Florida. From educational and Empowerment Workshops hosted by Central Florida Black Pride, to Sexy Parties Hosted By Sizzle Miami and Banjee Magazine. Enjoy Film Series, Worship Service with Breath of Life Fellowship Church, Steamy Pool Party Hosted By Clikque Magazine and a Fun Day At Busch Gardens™.

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Budget Car Rental ■ 1-800-772-3773 ■ Discount code: U060948
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CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK Pride

Proud Member Of The International Federation Of Black Prides

Sexy Parties Sponsored By: SIZZLE

2005 Black Prides & National Circuits Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

The International Federation of Black Prides was organized by a coalition of Black Pride organizers representing Chicago, North Carolina, New York, Atlanta, De of developing sponsorship strategies, providing technical assistance, networking, mentoring, and supporting one another. IFBP acquired its IRS 501 (c)(3) non profit status in November 2004.

APRIL

PHILADELPHIA BLACK GAY PRIDE

APRIL 21-24, 2005
www.phillyblackpride.org
610-284-1927
SEE PAGE 15 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

MAY

HOUSTON SPLASH*

MAY 4TH-9TH, 2005
www.houstonsplash.com

SIZZLE MIAMI*

MAY 26TH-30TH, 2005
www.sizzle2005.com
305-528-7495
SEE PAGE 18 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

WASHINGTON DC BLACK PRIDE
MAY 27 - 30, 2005

JUNE

BOSTON UNITY PRIDE
JUNE 8 - 12, 2005

MEMPHIS, TN
MEMPHIS TN BLACK PRIDE
JUNE 17 - 19, 2005

BLACK PRIDE NYC
JUNE 21-26, 2005

JULY

CHICAGO, IL
WINDY CITY BLACK PRIDE

JULY 1 - JULY 4, 2005
312-986-0661
www.thewindycitypride.org
SEE PAGE 25 & 28 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

AT THE BEACH LOS ANGELES
JULY 1 -4, 2005

TAMPA, FL
CENTRAL FLORIDA BLACK PRIDE

July 14-17, 2005
(813) 873-1888
Riccrollins@aol.com
lorenz762@aol.com
www.floridablackpride.net
SEE PAGE 27 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLOTTE NC BLACK GAY PRIDE

JULY 15 - 17, 2005
charlottencblackgaypride.com

DETROIT PRIDE HOTTER THAN JULY
JULY 27 -July 31, 2005
WEB: www.hotterthanjuly.com

PITTSBURGH UNITY BLACK PRIDE
JULY 29 - 31, 2005

AUGUST

CLEVELAND, OH
BLACK, GAY & PROUD
CELEBRATION
AUGUST 1-7, 2005
BlackOut Unlimited
(216) 937-2268
.blackoutunlimited.org

BROOKLYN NY*
PRIDE IN THE CITY

AUGUST 5 -7, 2005
78-230-0770
www.pocc.org
SEE PAGE 2 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

JACKSONVILLE BLACK PRIDE, INC
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

2005 Black Pride & National Circuit Calendar

This list made available courtesy of:

AUGUST cont.

INDIANA BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 5 -7, 2005

MINNESOTA GLBT SOUL ESSENCE
AUGUST 11 - 14, 2005

ST. LOUIS BLACK PRIDE
AUGUST 18-21, 2005

BAY AREA BLACK
IN THE LIFE CELEBRATION
AUGUST 16-21, 2005

EBONY PRIDE SAN DIEGO
AUGUST 27, 2005

SEPTEMBER

ATLANTA BLACK GAY PRIDE

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2005
IN THE LIFE ATLANTA
(404) 872-6410
info@intheatl.com
www.inthelifeatl.com
SEE PAGE 13 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OCTOBER

DALLAS BLACK PRIDE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
www.dallasblackpride.com

BALTIMORE BLACK GAY PRIDE, INC.

OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
CONTACT PERSON: Carlton Smith
410-524-1555/443-691-9669
chairman@bmoreblackpride.org
www.bmoreblackpride.org
SEE PAGE 22 FOR ADVERTISEMENT

OAKLAND BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6-9, 2005

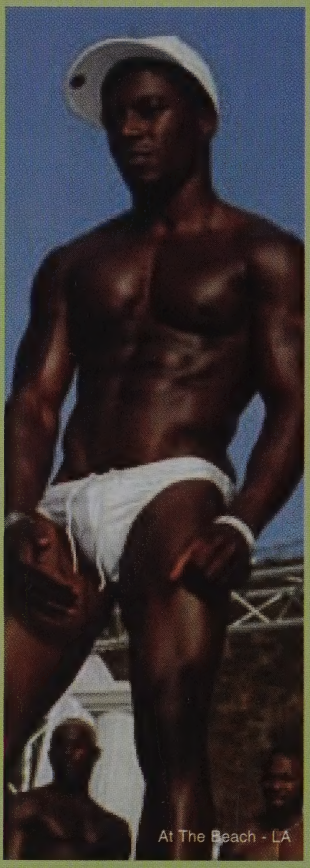
JACKSON, MS
MISSISSIPPI BLACK PRIDE
OCTOBER 6 -9, 2005

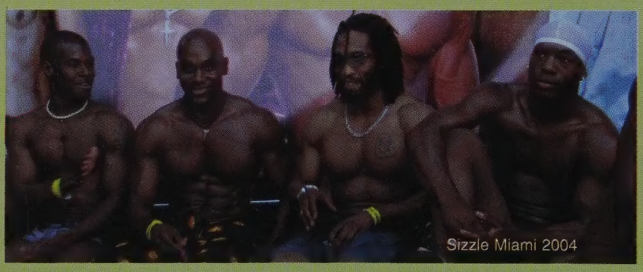
NASHVILLE BLACK PRIDE

OCTOBER 28 - 30, 2005
(615) 259-4866 Ext. 269
brosunited@aol.com
www.brothersunited.com

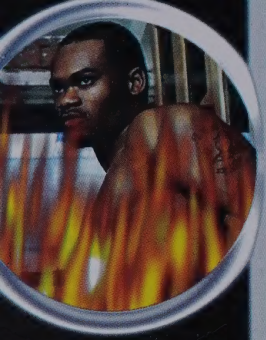
NOVEMBER

NEW ORLEANS, LA
POC (PEOPLE OF COLOR) NOLA
NOVEMBER 26-28, 2005


At The Beach - LA


Sizzle Miami 2004

Pride Events/Circuits Listed With A (*) Have Elected Not To Become Members Of The Federation At This Time



Hotter Than July'

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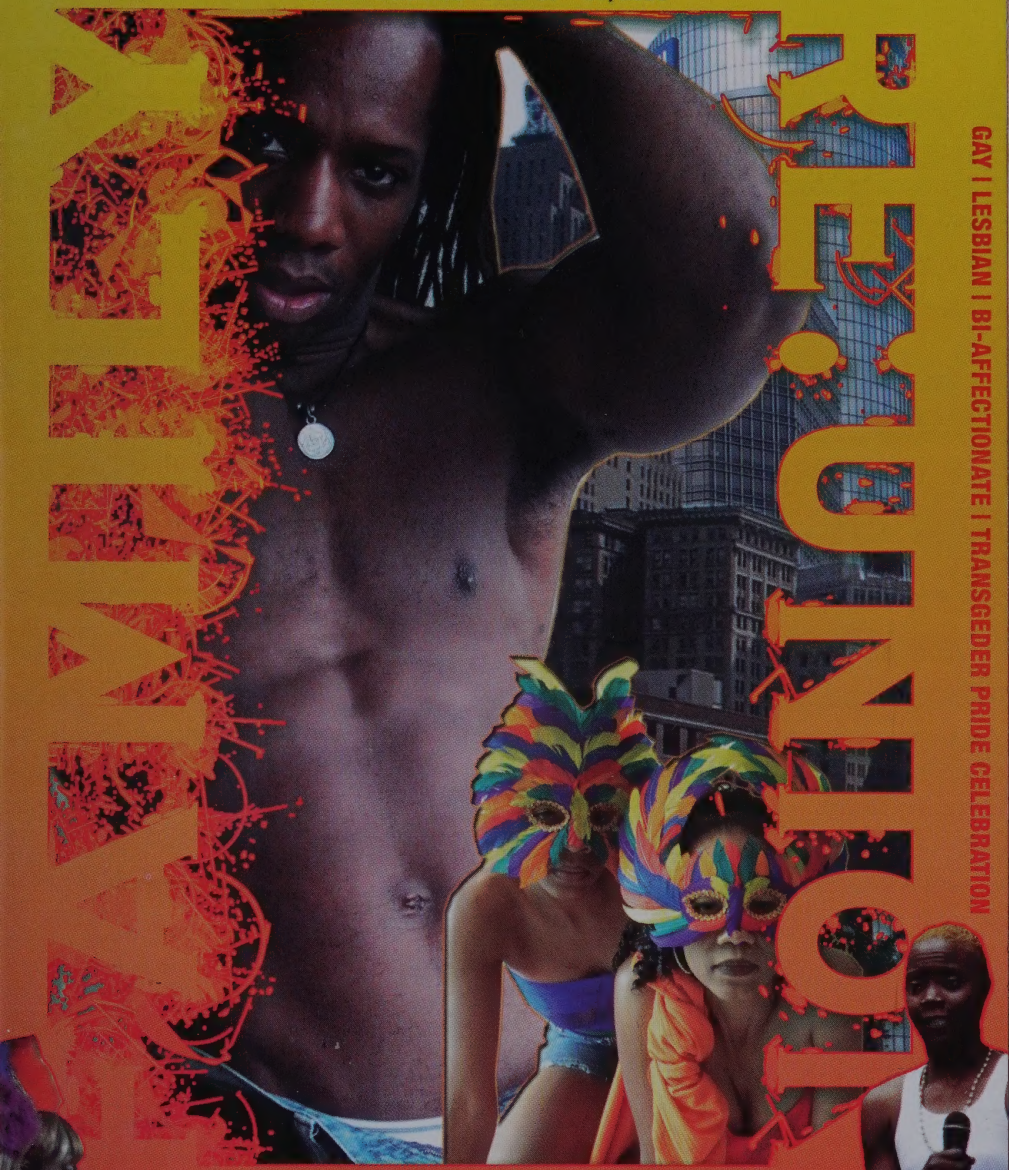

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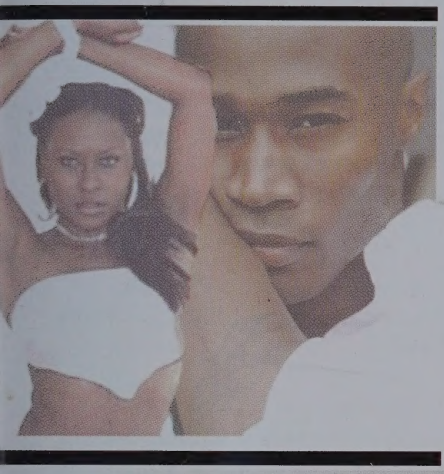

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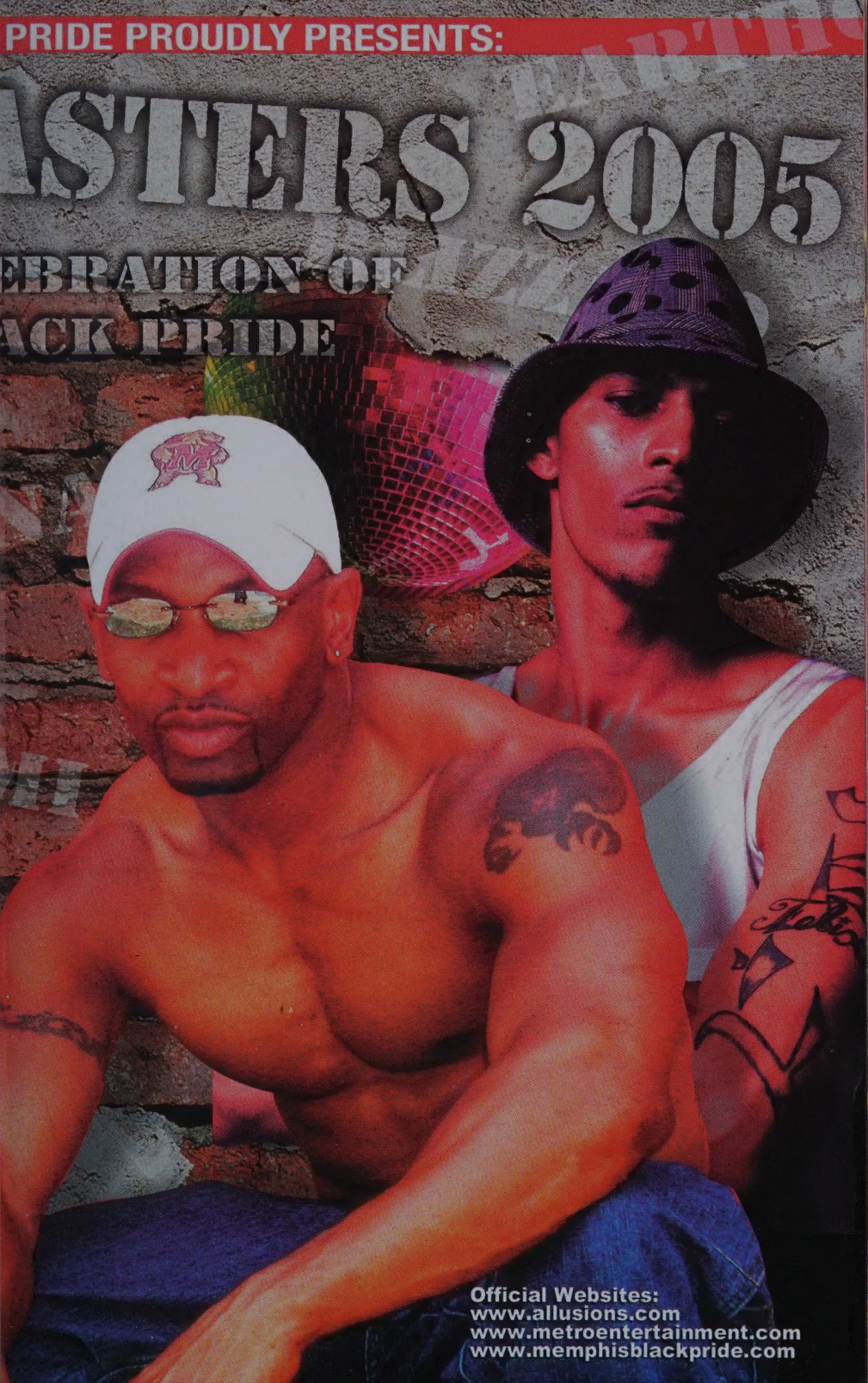
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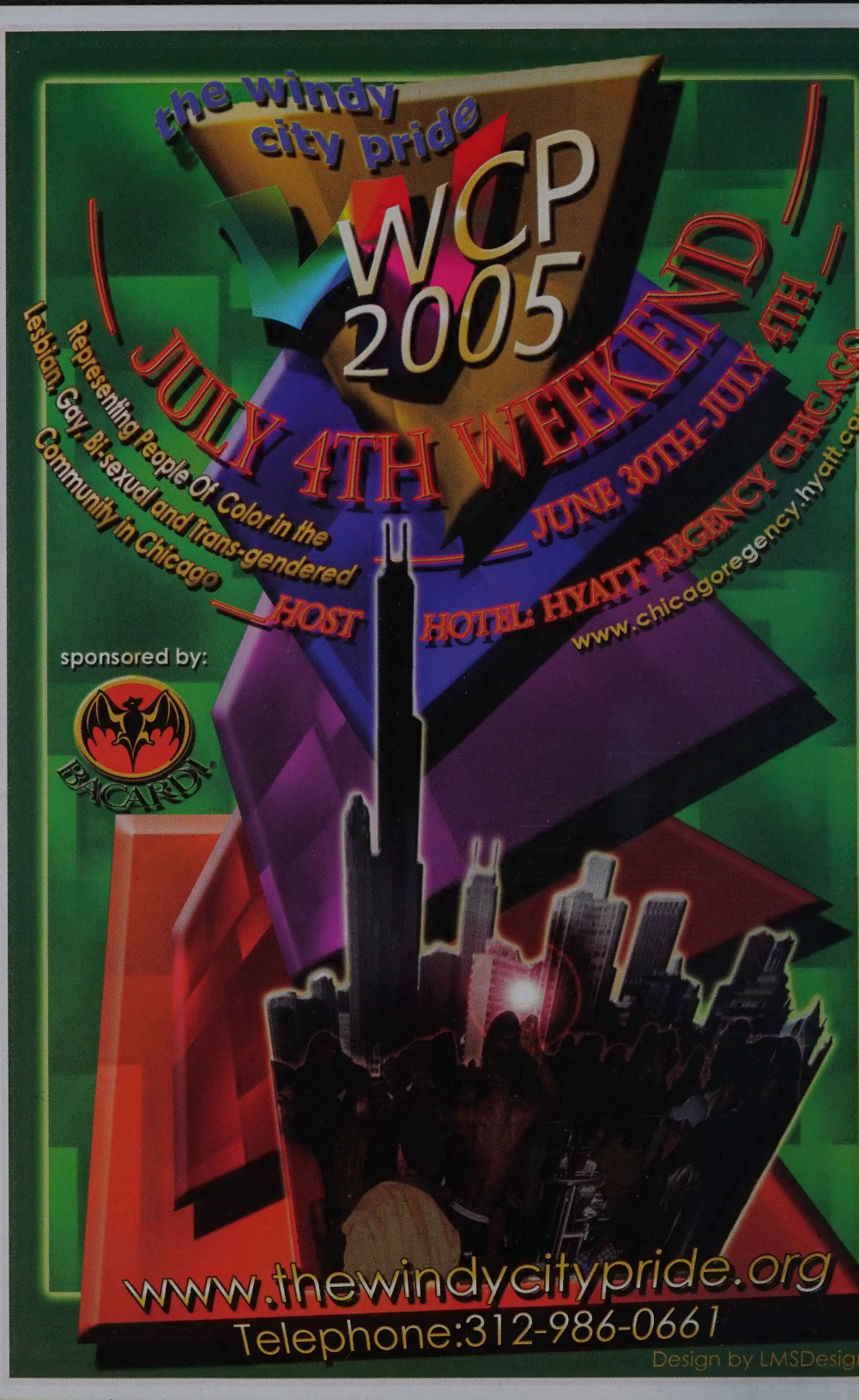
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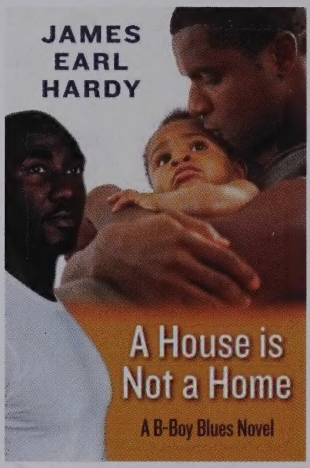
James Earl Hardy's Final Installment:

A House Is Not a Home



Hardy's revolutionary B-Boy series commenced in 1994 and marked the beginning of a fiction genre that both embraced and addressed homosexuality as part of the African American urban experience.

Drawing on the very themes that put him on the map - love, family, and high drama within the same-gender-loving world, Hardy's A House Is Not a Home picks up the B-Boy Blues series with the return of beloved characters, Mitchell and Raheim. Mitchell is a soon to be forty-year-old Brooklyn buppie who is a stay-at-home dad and successful freelance writer with a dream job offer from an unlikely source. Fresh from rehab, Raheim, Mitchell's thirty-year-old thugged out, starry-eyed partner from Harlem, has a new lease on life and gets his big break as the lead in a film. But he faces a dilemma. Will he do what no other black actor has done before - play a gay character and come out in the process?

A House Is Not a Home also explores more recent hot button topics, including men on the "down-low," as well as marriage and adoption within the gay and bisexual communities. After more than a decade, Hardy's B-Boy Blues series leaves behind a legacy in gay fiction. The titles included in the series are: B-Boy Blues, 2nd Time Around, If Only for One Nite, The Day Eazy-E Died, and Love the One You're With.

An honors graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism, James Earl Hardy's byline as a music critic/cultural writer/essayist has appeared in Essence, Newsweek, Entertainment Weekly, The Washington Post, Out, The Advocate, and The Source. Hardy has been honored by the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors and has won the E.Y. Harburg Foundation Arts Award and the Educational Press Association Award. Most recently, Hardy is the recipient of the Public Service Award from Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD). Born and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, Hardy curre=. ntly lives in Atlanta.

About The Book

Hardcover: 240 pages
- Publisher: Amistad (May 24, 2005)
- ISBN: 0066212499

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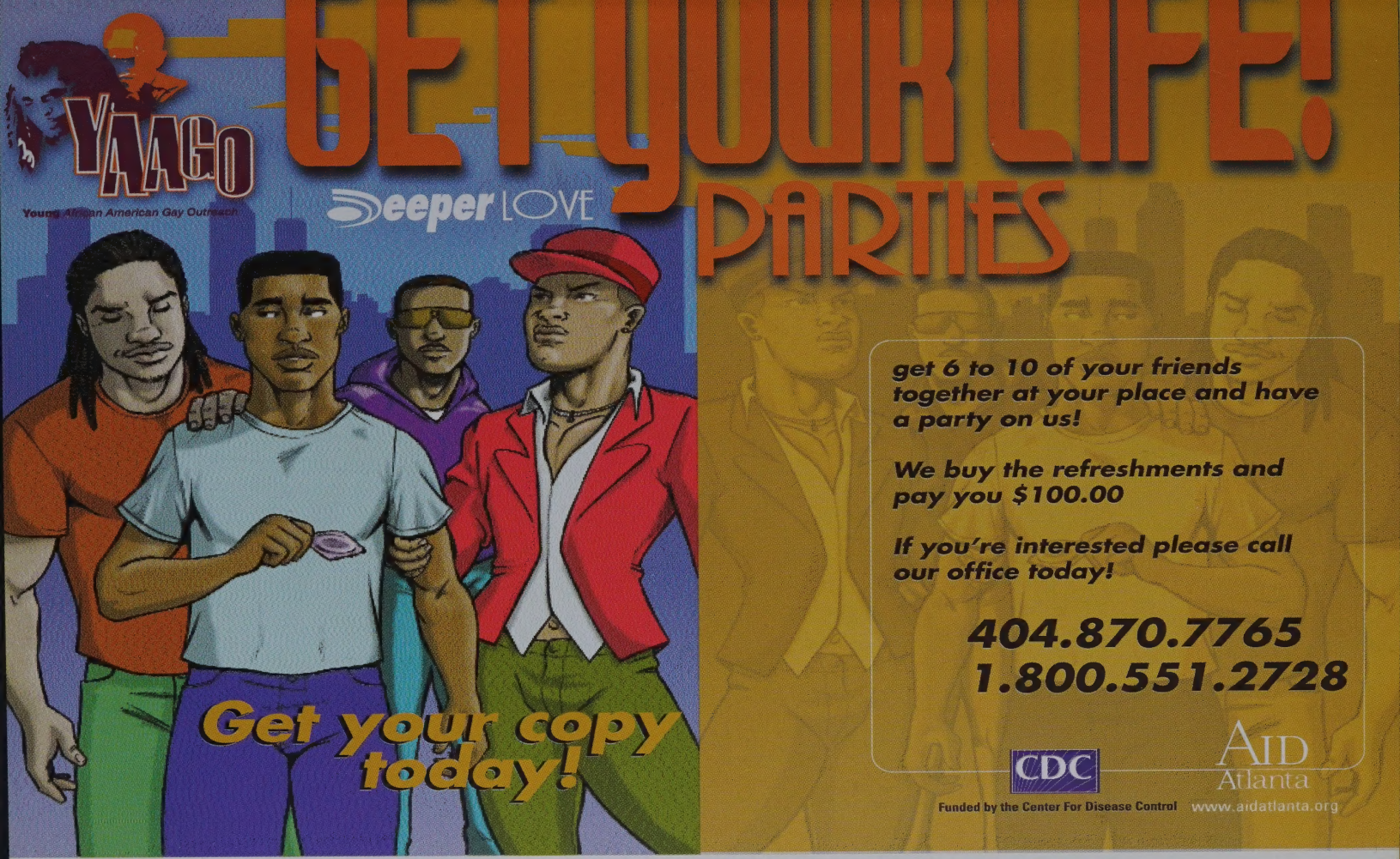
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by Ryan Lee

Southern Voice

Trying To Keep Up With The Atlanta Party Scene Is Like

Playing Musical Chairs!

AS hot days and sweltering nights approach, nightlife options for black gay men and lesbians in Atlanta appear poised to keep the crowds sweating after a long period of uncertainty. A virtual round of musical chairs in recent months saw big-name party groups move from their traditional locations as well as the emergence of new nightlife options for people who thought the scene was lacking.Promoters are moving beyond simply passing out fliers and throwing a party at a club. They now use an increasingly savvy network of Web and text messaging to keep followers updated on hot spots, along with planning more elaborate events like getaways to places including Las Vegas and Miami.

At least eight nightspots with a predominately black clientele are likely to play some combination of hip-hop and R&B music, with Bulldogs always good for a House set. But beyond music, the crowds at each location are casually segregated by everything from age and gender to general interests, making party promoters eager to satisfy each niche.

"Our demographic is 21 to 54 year-old, African-American, masculine men in the lifestyle – professional men who generally are more discreet with things and are more likely to go to a house party," says Mario Harris, owner and event director for WassupnATL.

The party promotion group has most recently thrown bashes at the Armory on Thursdays and Saturdays called Club 836.

The parties, named after the Armory's address on Juniper Street, attempt to resurrect what was once hallowed ground in gay nightlife. The Armory shares a parking lot with Backstreet, the now-defunct 24-hour gay dance club that drew huge crowds for years.

"We've totally turned the Armory around and brought that location back to life," says Harris, who estimates that between 500 and 700 people fill the space on Saturdays.

Club 836 has become the favorite nightspot of Sam Matthews, a 27-year-old from west Atlanta who says the parties provide a nice balance between the older crowd at Bulldogs and the younger ones at spots like Club 708.

"It took a while for it to pick up, but now on Saturdays it's always pretty crowded, so I guess everybody has heard the word about it," Matthews says. "It's got a real cool vibe to it – the space, the music, the people; it's definitely giving something new."

Providing "something new" is what inspired Dante McCommon and Denis Holden to create Affair With Flair, a membership-based non-profit group that holds networking and social events for "discreet, professional men and women in the life," McCommon says.

In its second year, Affair With Flair has about 130 members who are predominantly female African Americans, but everyone is welcomed and encouraged to join and attend events, according to organizers.

Group members attend themed parties, dine out together, host family outings in Piedmont Park and recently went on a retreat to Las Vegas. Many Affair With Flair events, including its Third Friday networking and dancing sets, are open to the public.

"A lot of people don't want to go out and be amongst the kids," McCommon says. "We're trying to provide an alternative to the bar scene, where people can come out, be amongst people with similar interests, and as our motto says, 'Share knowledge. Share experience.'"

Affair With Flair isn't the only group adding new alternatives to Atlanta's black gay social mix. Xtreme Entertainment is on the map as well.

The group is planning a bus tour to gay pride events in Miami and Washington in May and recently relocated one of its marquee parties, the Lion's Den, from Tower II to the Lava Lounge on 13th Street in Midtown.

The Sunday night party continues to draw a loyal following, including Terran Washington, a 23-year-old Decatur resident who said the Lion's Den's early hours – 6 p.m. to midnight – create a more laid-back environment than other clubs.

"The whole mood and atmosphere of it is different – there doesn't seem to be as much drama or eye-ballin' as you see at other places," Washington said. "I just come to

MUSICAL CHAIRS CONTINUES ON PAGE 56

MUSICAL CHAIRS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

dance and hang out with my friends for a few hours each Sunday."

In addition to the Lion's Den changing locations, Traxx – a fixture in Atlanta's black gay nightlife scene – moved from its longtime residence on Luckie Street downtown in February.

The Traxx group continues its "Thugged out Tuesdays" and "Candy Shop Fridays" at Club Library on Marietta Street. Along with the move, the club now allows 18-20-year-olds to party with drinking-age folks, says Homer Hammonds, co-owner of Traxx.

Another recent change to black gay nightlife was the closing of Club Colours in the Ansley II strip center on Piedmont Avenue. Representatives for Colours could not be reached for comment by press time.

In addition to the rotating of clubs by party promoters, major additions to Atlanta's black gay nightlife took place in the past year.

Transitions elsewhere opened the door for OzonEntertainment to launch its Thursday and Saturday parties at Phase I on Memorial Drive in Decatur, says Ed Givens, founder of Ozon.

"When I first started it was kind of rough because I was a new promoter and people would always say Decatur is too far of a drive," Givens says. "But so far in 2005, I'm beginning to see everything come together, and we're getting about 200, 300 people a night."

Like Club Chaparral on Buford Highway, Phase I can stay open later than clubs located within the city of Atlanta, something Givens says helps attract more business.

OzonEntertainment also hosts parties for lesbians at Phase I on Fridays and Saturdays and at Tower II on Ralph McGill Boulevard on Tuesdays.

Nightlife options for lesbians – whether white or black – are notoriously scarce, but in addition to Affair With Flair and the OzonEntertainment parties, the black lesbian promotion group Girls in the Night hosts "Girl 69" parties Fridays at the Armory.

DESPITE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS, other nightlife mainstays show no signs of leaving.

Rumors often abound that Bulldogs on Peachtree Street is preparing to be sold, torn down and replaced by luxury condos, says Michael Clutter, owner of Bulldogs.

The recent round of such rumors is just as untrue as previous ones, says Clutter, who owns the land where the club sits and says he plans to keep the bar open "for at least another 20 or 30 years."

Despite the emergence of nearby Club 836, throngs of gay black men continue to line up outside Bulldogs every weekend.

Another venue proving its staying power is Club 708 on Spring Street, a club once known as Loretta's. The club remains at its decades-long location and continues to grow.

Bulldogs is known for more mature customers, and Club 708 falls at the opposite end of the spectrum, where people over 21 wear wristbands to distinguish themselves from 18-20-year-olds.

Chaparral continues as the spot of choice for patrons of the Lion's Den on Sundays who want to party beyond midnight. Located in unincorporated DeKalb County, Chaparral is unaffected by Atlanta's early closing hours and stays open until 4 a.m.

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2800 S Federal Ft Laud .. 954-463-1507

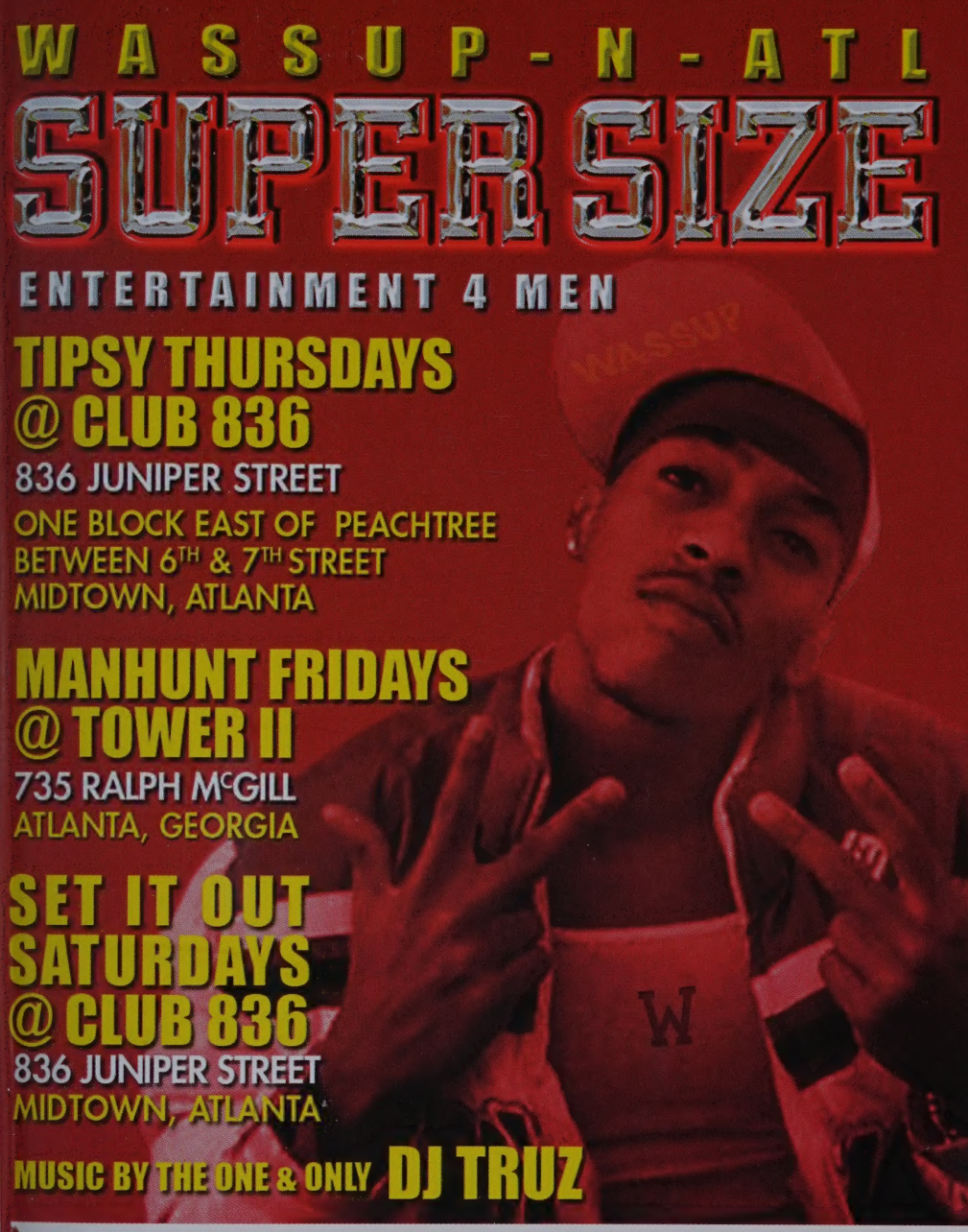
HOUSE (formally Cactus)
2041 Biscayne Blvd, .. 305-438-0662

JADE LOUNGE
1766 Bay Road,..... 305-695-0000

WASSUP-N-ATL

SUPER SIZE

ENTERTAINMENT 4 MEN



TIPSY THURSDAYS @ CLUB 836

836 JUNIPER STREET

ONE BLOCK EAST OF PEACHTREE
BETWEEN 6TH & 7TH STREET
MIDTOWN, ATLANTA

MANHUNT FRIDAYS @ TOWER II

735 RALPH McGILL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SET IT OUT SATURDAYS @ CLUB 836

836 JUNIPER STREET
MIDTOWN, ATLANTA

MUSIC BY THE ONE & ONLY **DJ TRUZ**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 404.246.9000

PARTY WITH US

EVERY WEEKEND 10PM-3AM

WWW.WASSUPNATL.COM

Remember that clubs and bars go in and out of business all the time. It is usually a good idea to call before you go to any of th establishments listed below. Call 954-455-3394 To Advertise your club - $15/mo

J'S BAR
2780 Davie Blvd, ... 954-581-8400

OXYGEN LOUNGE
2911 Grand Ave..... 305-476-0202

SCORE
757 Lincoln Road..... 305-535-1111

SUGARS
17060 W. Dixie Hwy 305-940-9887

TWIST
1057 Washington Ave 305-538-9478

MONTGOMERY, ALA

FAT BOYS FOLLIES
215 North Court St 334-262-0029

NASHVILLE, TENN

THE CONNECTION
901 Cowan Street 615-742-1166

NEW ORLEANS, LA

FUSION'S
2004 AP Tureaud Ave. 504-301-5121

NEW YORK, NY

CHI CHIZ
135 Christopher St,..... 212-462-0027

CLUB SHELTER
20 W.39th St,..... 212-749-4479
Website: www.clubshelter.com

CLUBHOUSE
2234 3rd Ave, Harlem.. 212-330-8101
Website: www.clubworldusa.com

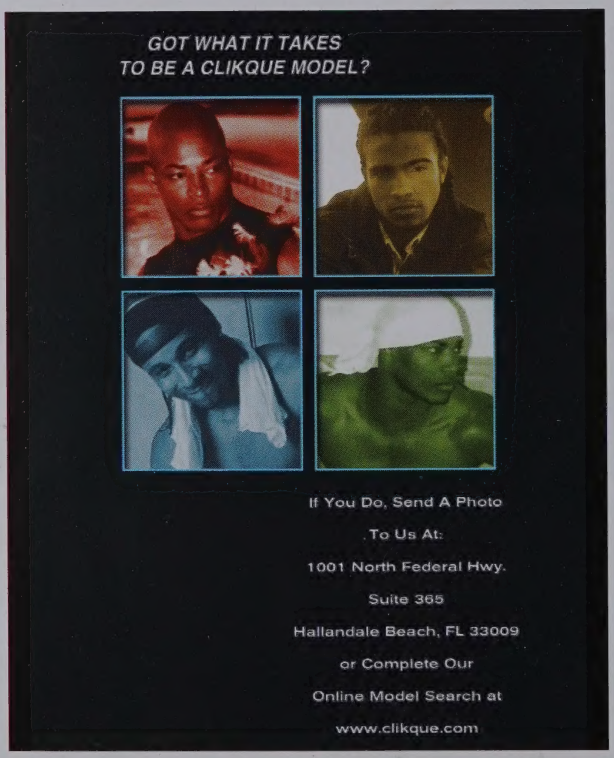
ESCUELITA
301 W. 39th St..... 212-631-0588
Website: www.escuelita.com

THE FLOW @ Stonewall
53 Christopher St,..... 646-230-1316

KRASH
16 W. 22nd St,..... 212-229-2000
Website: www.krashnyc.com

NEWARK, NJ

MURPHY'S
59 Edison Place. 973-622-9176



OAKLAND/SF, CA

CABEL'S REEF
2272 Telegraph Ave.,.... 213-350-3600

ENDUP
401 6th St., SF..... 213-350-3600

THE PENDULUM
4146 18th Street, SF.... 213-350-3600

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

CLUB QUEST
745 Bennett Road 407-228-8226

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
410 N. Orange Blosso.. 407-425-7571

SOUTHERN NIGHTS
375 S Bumby Ave. 407-898-0424

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

CLUB COLOURS
536 N. Harrison St. 804-353-9776

SAN DIEGO, CA

THE BRASS RAIL,
3796 5th Avenue. 619-298-2224

TALLAHASSEE, FL

BROTHERS NIGHTCLUB
926 West Tharpe St 850-386-2399

CLUB PARK AVENUE (CPA)
115 East Park Ave. 904-599-9143

CLUB TEN NINETY
Highway 90 off I-10.

TAMPA, FLORIDA

VALENTINE'S NIGHTCLUB
7522 N. Armenia Ave .. 813-936-1999

HARBOR CLUB
1915 East Grant Ave. .. 813-932-6712

WASHINGTON, DC

BACHELOR'S MILL,
1104 8th St., S.E. 202-544-1931

DELTA ELITE
3734 10th St., N.E. 202-529-0626

THE EDGE
56 L St., S.E. ..... 202-488-1200.

WEST PALM BCH, FL

KASHMIRE
1651 S Congress 561-649-5557

This Sexy Boi Event is being brought to you by:
SIZZLE MIAMI (MIA) • RAILS GRP. (CHI) • STRONGARM PRODUCTION (DET)
OZONE ENT. (ATL) • CLUB HOUSE PRODUCTION (CHI) • TALENTS OF CHICAGO

VENUE: **TASTE ~ 6331 S. LOWE, CHICAGO, IL.**
CLUB INFO LINE: 773-873-6700
TIME: DOORS OPEN @ 10PM UNTIL YOU SAY "STOP"
WHO: 21+ **(GROWN & SEXY MEN WANTED)**
COST: $20 ALL NIGHT LONG

Feast your eyes on The Hottest Men From Atlanta, DC, Miami, Chicago & Philly At the only venue in Chicago where you can get *LIVE Male Entertainment* Come early and stay late @ ***THE TASTE!*** Offering *3 ROOMS & 2,000 SEXY MEN* @ Chicago Pride Starring Nationally Renowned *DJ Miestro*& Chicago's own *DJ Kenae and DJ SP1.* Hosted by: the Hilarious *Ms. Ruff-N-Stuff!.*

CHICAGO, IL • SATURDAY
JULY 2ND
@THE 'TASTE

FOR MORE INFO VISIT: www.Theblackparty.net/mail@theblackparty.net

Portion of the proceeds to benefit The Windy City Pride organization

The G Spot

Sexy Saturday Series

for the Grown & Sexy
Chic Attire Required

DJ $HAWNEY
$PINNING THE BE$T OF
HIP HOP, RAP R&B AND REGGAE

$7 BEFORE MIDNIGHT
$10 AFTER
DRINK $PECIAL$

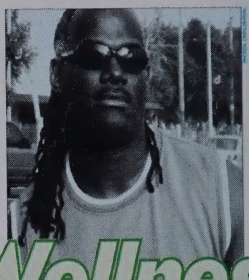
Icon Media & Club Eve present

2205 RICHMOND
Richmond & Greenbriar @ Azteca's 2nd Floor
EVERY SUNDAY

$1.00 SUNDAYS

EVERY SUNDAY STARTING MAY 8, 2005

5PM - UNTIL 10PM
$1.00 ADMISSION
BEFORE 10PM $5.00 AFTER
$2.00 WELL DRINKS
DJ SHAWNEY
THE BEST OF HIP HOP,
RAP, R&B AND REGGAE
2205 RICHMOND
@GREENBRIAR
59 South Exit Kirby (Make a Left)
Make a Right on Richmond Go to Greenbriar.
Club is on the Right Hand Side



In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

"Creating Unity and Affirming Our Common Bond"

Wellness for Life

'Healthy Urban Living'

2005 Black Men's Health Conference

Mental, Physical and Spiritual Health and Well-Being

Saturday, August 13, 2005
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

USC Davidson Conference Center
3415 S. Figueroa St. (at Jefferson)
Los Angeles, California

Registration form available online at www.inthemeantimemen.org
$100 advance registration required. Registration deadline: July 30, 2005
For additional information, call 323-733-4868

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

Providing our community with solutions through action: empowerment, education and health care resources

FedEx Kinko's

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

Creating Unity and Affirming Our Common Bond

4th Annual Umoja Retreat

September 16-18, 2005
Camp Hollywoodland
3200 Canyon Drive, Hollywood 90068

The Umoja Experience is designed to focus on the physical, mental and spiritual well being of same gender loving men of African descent.

The Unity Goal is to celebrate and embrace our personal and collective purpose.

This Year's Theme: Total Expansion

There's more! In addition to the experiential process, there will be plenty time for relaxation, volleyball, hiking, meditation, yoga, flexing and boy play

Limited Space. Register Now!

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.
Contact us at 323-733-4868
www.inthemeantimemen.org
inthemeantimemen@aol.com
Post Office Box 29861
Los Angeles, California 90029-0861

In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

LABORDAY/2005 IN ATLANTA AUGUST 1-4TH

TRAXX

presents:

THE MAIN EVENT

DO TO OUR ABSENCE WE HAVE **TRAINED** THOROUGHLY TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE MOST INTENSE, INTERGRATING, DRAMATIC EVENTS OF ALL TIMES...BELIEVE US WHEN WE SAY **(THE MAIN EVENT)** CUMING TO U IN THE ATL.

SATURDAY TRAXX PRESENTS:

THE KNOCKOUT PARTY

" PREPARE TO GO 10 ROUNDS "

FIRST EVER MAJOR POOL PARTY INSIDE A CLUB
W/ 2 POOLS • 3 STAGES
6 DJs • HIP- HOP DJ • HOUSE DJ • REGGAE DJ

CONTENDER PARTY

MONDAY: HELD AT PIEDMONT PARK
J-SETTE CONTEST • FREE PICNIC PARK
CUM EAT FREE

THE TKO PARTY

THUGGED OUT TUESDAY
THE NIGHT THAT'S REMAIN UNDEFEATED
WITH THE HELP OF ATLIENS

PRIDE IN THE CITY 2005
AUGUST 4TH-7TH
OPENING RECEPTION
AUG 4th
BROOKLYN
MARRIOTT
BLACKOUT ARTS
SERIES
AUG 5th
BROOKLYN
MARRIOTT
FAMILY DAY PICNIC
AUG 6th
COMMODORE
BARRY PARK
BEACH PARTY
AUG 7th
JACOB RIIS PARK
Pride IN THE CITY
For more info visit us at www.prideinthecity.com or call 718-230-0770